OCTOBER 2005 Rs.8/- 80 Pages

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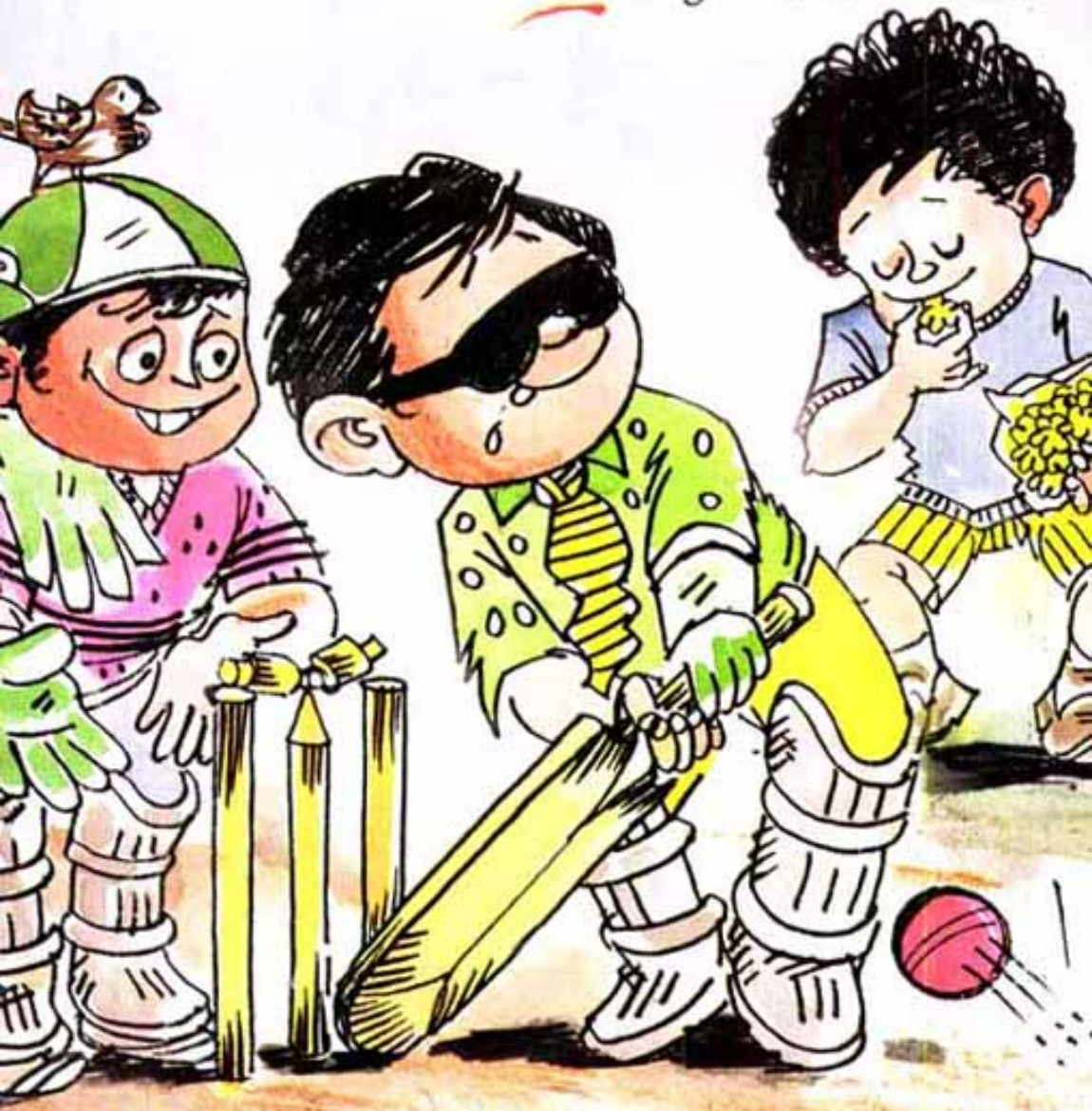
THE Magazine for Children



WHAT'S WRONG WITH INDIAN CRICKET?

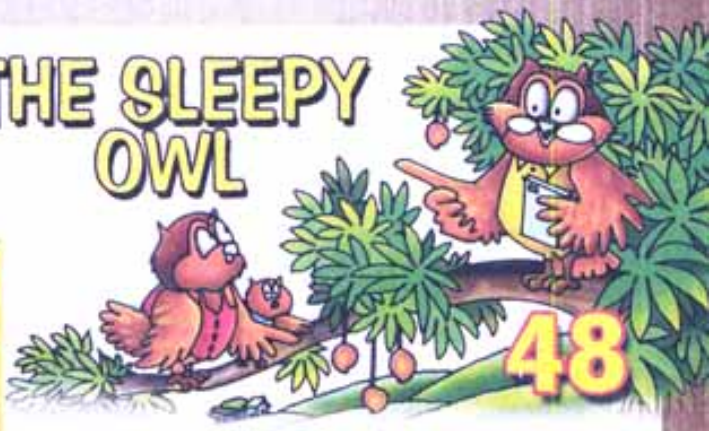
MILKA

WONDER CAKE

அற்புதமான ஆறு சுவைகளில்

OCTOBER 2005
Vol. XVIII, No.4

THE SLEEPY OWL



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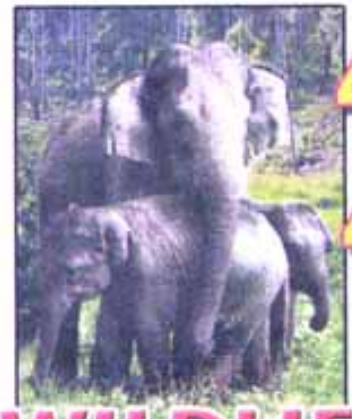
DUSSEHRA GRANDEUR



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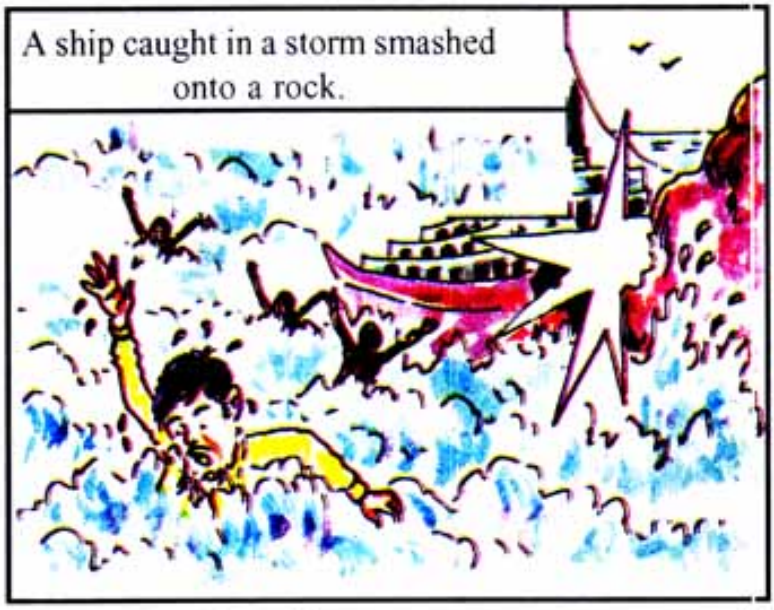
Tomo in Japan 72

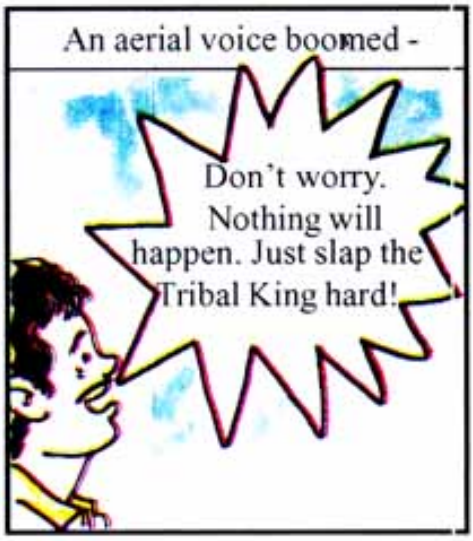
Of all created things the loveliest,
And most divine are children.
-William Canton

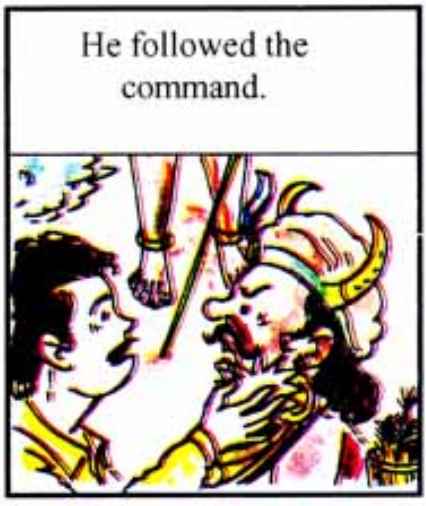
GOKULAM
THE Magazine for Children

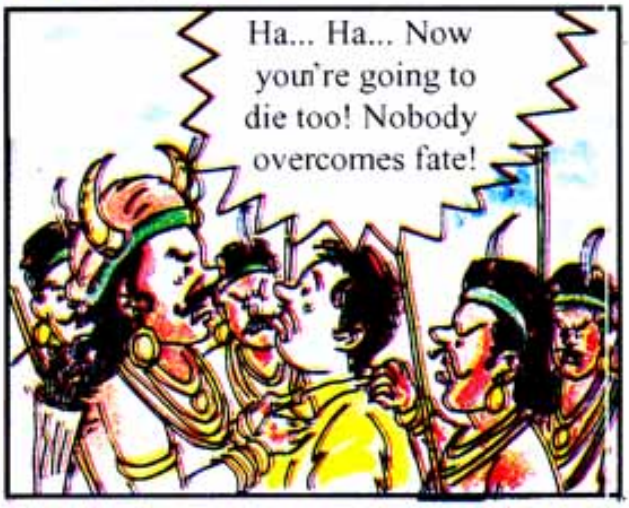
THE COMMAND!

Story : M.Sivaprakash Pic : Venkat









A DRESS CODE FOR STUDENTS

Dear Reader,

There is a saying in Tamil : "fifty percent man; fifty percent dress!" What it means is that it is the attire which makes the first impression which should be the best impression. A flashy, costly dress is not necessary. But one should always choose an attractive, suitable attire for himself and needless to say, it should be clean and well pressed. A neatly dressed person will be welcomed wherever he goes while a shabbily dressed person will be shunned.

Recently there has been a controversy about the dress worn by Sania Mirza on the tennis court. While we need not enter into an argument, it should be recognized that the attire should be helpful to play the game with ease and comfort. If a champion of our country should lose a match because of some dress regulation, that would indeed be a sorry day for our sports.

That brings us to another subject : Should there be a dress regulation for college students? Any regulation when imposed creates resistance. On the other hand, if a vice-chancellor proposes a uniform for all his university students as well as the teaching staff to create a sense of equality and comaraderie, and calls for an opinion poll, I'm sure that a majority of students will vote for his proposal!

- Editor

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THE Magazine for Children

Prize Winning Story

YIP YIP

Ajay ran into his father's study shouting "Daddy I am bored with school" Ajay's Dad who was a scientist and CEO of "IPL - Indo Pharma Limited" smiled at his son and said "Ajay, I have come up with a special syrup. If you just take one spoon, you would enter my body and become "Daddy". I could enter your body and become "Ajay". However this change would work for only twenty four hours.

Ajay was fascinated with the idea. That evening Ajay drank the syrup and became 'Daddy' and 'Daddy' became Ajay.

Ajay, now the CEO of IPL walked majestically but bumped into his maid servant. For an instant he forgot his new form and cried 'Yip-yip-yippie', as usual. The servant maid, not knowing it was Ajay, screamed and brought the roof down.

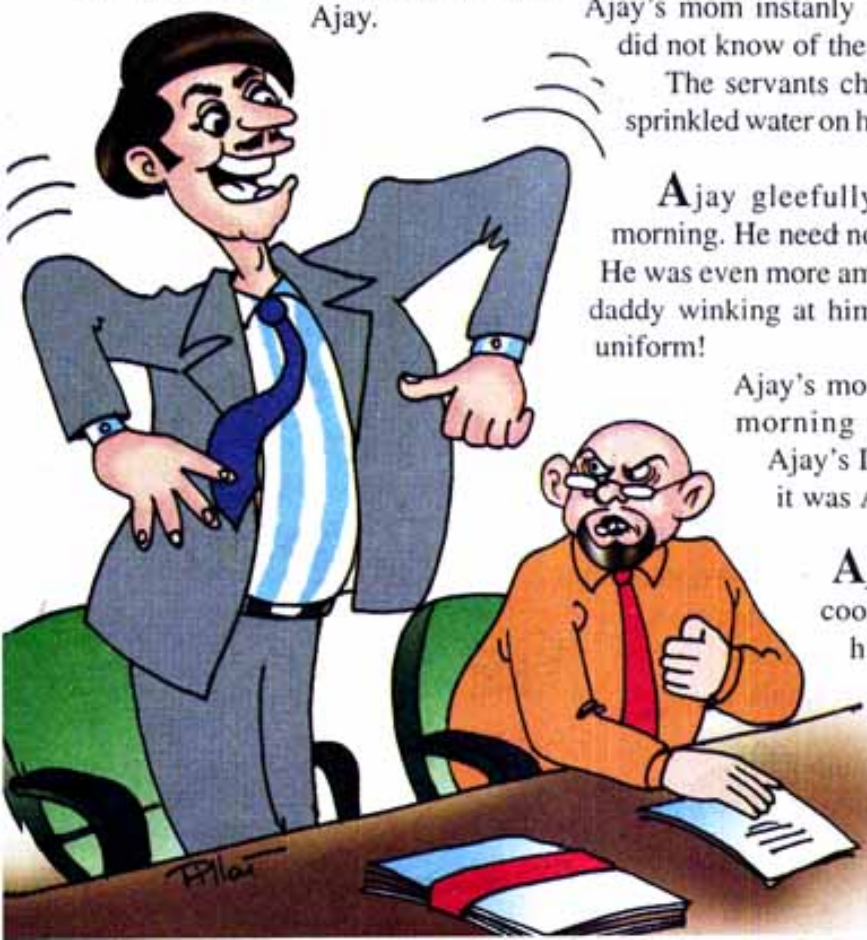
Ajay, walked into the kitchen, and found his adorable Mom, making chappathis. He hugged her as usual. Ajay's mom instanly fainted for she did not know of the 'mix up'.

The servants chuckled as they sprinkled water on her to revive her.

Ajay gleefully got up next morning. He need not go to school. He was even more amazed to see his daddy winking at him in his school uniform!

Ajay's mom was feeding morning breakfast to Ajay's Daddy thinking it was Ajay.

Ajay felt 'super cool' as he entered his office in a suit with a matching tie and was pleased to find



a TV in his room. He at once decided to watch the thrilling Indo-Srilanka match. Mr. Dev entered. Mr. Dev, Ajay knew, was a scientist like his Dad, and was always stern and serious.

Mr. Dev frowned at Ajay, who was now whistling as India had won the toss and decided to bat, and the first shot was a smashing six.

YIPPIE!

Mr. Dev. said "Sir, people are waiting for you at the conference hall. You know there is a press meet."

Ajay entered the conference hall, but the people around were shocked to see that the usually majestic scientist walk had changed into a hop, skip and jump (Ajay style!).

Ajay was taken aback, to see so many cameras and so many press people. Ajay however saw ice-cream on the table, and screamed "yip-yip-yippie!"

The next day the leading paper headline read : CEO OF IPL SMELLS SUCCESS!

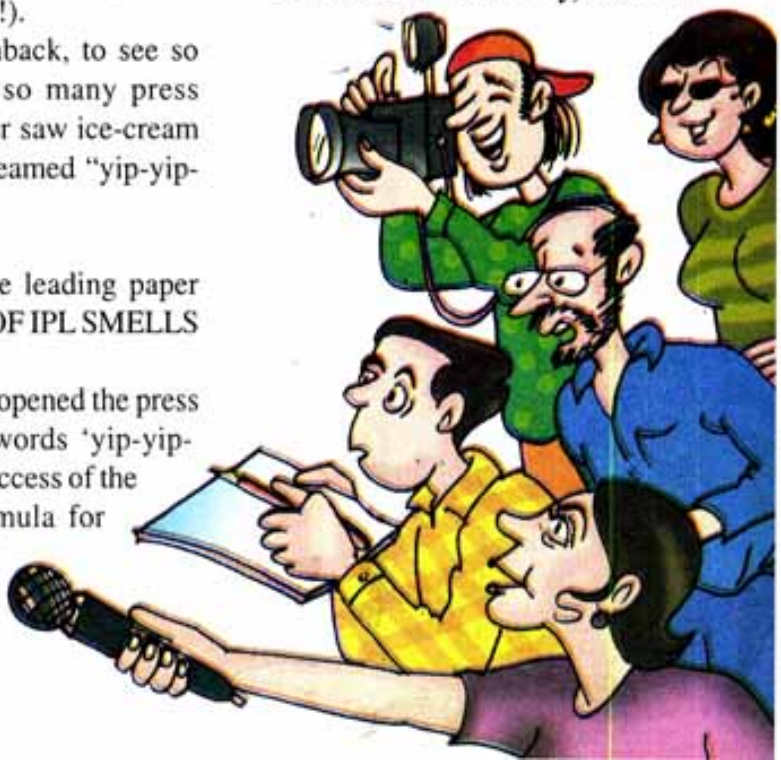
"The CEO of IPL opened the press coference with the words 'yip-yip-yippie!' indicating success of the company's new formula for common colds.

When pressed further about their recent invention "The super remedy for common colds" the scientist cum CEO just continued eating his ice-creams! He had about six cups of ice-creams when his cellphone buzzed. The press-meet came to an abrupt end as the scientist suddenly rushed to his room shouting 'yip-yip-yippie!'

"No doubt if one can bravely eat six ice creams without fear of a cold it must be a 'super remedy'!" remarked the journalists who attended the press meet. As for Ajay his mobile had passed on the news that India had scored forty runs in just two overs!

The next day Dad felt elated at the press reviews for he was never good at promotion and Ajay was thrilled to get full marks in 'his' science and maths tests thanks to the CEO of the great IPL!

- Ajay Ashok, Std.VII,
St. Michaels' Academy, Chennai



Grandmaworm

HOW CAN I BECOME

I have this habit of biting my nails, but I do want to have beautiful, long shapely nails. What am I to do?

- Ananya Mishra, Bhubaneshwar

Dear Ananya,

Well, if you want to have beautiful nails on which you can use colourful nail polish and look very chic, then it follows that you have to make up your mind to stop biting your nails. Biting nails is an indication of nervousness and it is this problem which has to be attacked. Ask yourself, what are you nervous about? If you are nervous about maths, pay special attention to it; attend special classes or take tuition. Once you gain confidence your nervousness will disappear and so too the nail biting habit. Prayer and meditation will help you to make up your mind and strengthen it.

★★★

I keep on eating throughout the day. Besides the main meals, I go on munching snacks whenever I am at home! How can I curb this tendency?

- Tania Das, Silchar

Dear Tania,

From what you have written, I infer that you are more fond of snacks than regular food served at meal time. You must remember that vegetables and fruits taken with regular meals is very important for your health. So, have a square meal which will fulfil your appetite. You can add some snacks too during the main meal to satisfy your yearning. Restrict snacks to afternoon tea time only. A good breakfast, two square meals and some snacks at tea time is the best menu for children. You must exercise well not only to burn up calories but also to give you a feeling of fitness which will help you to overcome your nervousness and frequent nibbling of snacks.

★★★

I want to become an astronaut. How can I attain my future ambition?

- K.S.N. Vihari, Secundrabad

Dear Vihari,

When you join college try to get admission in an engineering college

What is participation certificate? I've been writing to Gokulam but I have not received any.

- Rashmika, Chennai

Dear Rashmika,

Participation certificate is sent by Gokulam to any contribution published in it, like a short story, article,

viewpoint, poem, joke etc. (i.e.) to any contribution with a creative content. It is not sent to questions addressed to "Grandmaworm" or "Hello Doctor".columns. "Letters to the Editor" also do not qualify. So, be creative and send as many contributions as possible.

Many of them may get published and who knows, you may be the winner of the special prize next year!

Love,
Grandmaworm

AN ASTRONAUT?

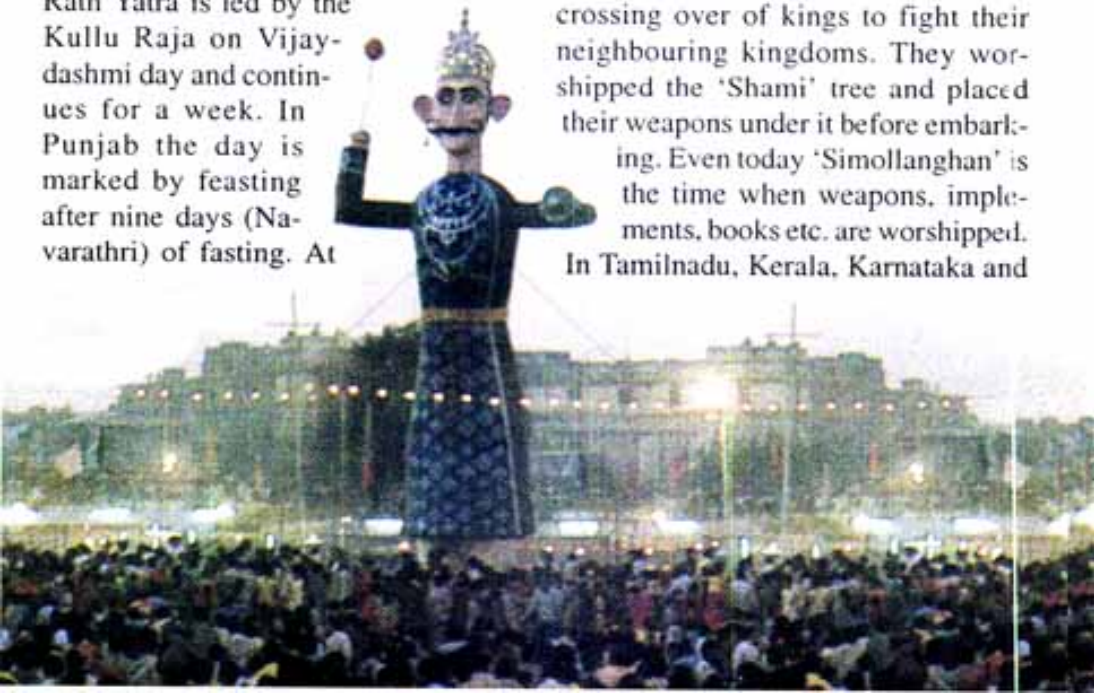
where you can study Aeronautics and Aerodynamics as special, main subjects. After getting a degree, you will have to go abroad for higher studies in rocket engineering and space research. While thus qualifying yourself academically, you will also have to develop your body and mind to withstand the stress and strain of being an astronaut. Physical fitness, mental agility and knowledge are required. Good luck! ★★★

DUSSEHRA GRANDEUR!

"Durga Puja", "Dussehra", "Navarathri" - call it by any name, the festival is the same and celebrated with great pomp and gaity. The essence of the festival is the celebration of triumph of good over evil.

In Kullu valley Lord Ragunath's Rath Yatra is led by the Kullu Raja on Vijaydashmi day and continues for a week. In Punjab the day is marked by feasting after nine days (Navarathri) of fasting. At Delhi's Ramlila grounds and other important 'maidans', effigies of Ravana, Meghnad and Kumbhakarna are burnt at sunset. During the ten day period commencing after 'New moon' Ramayana is enacted by troupes and floats on the streets are common.

In Gujarat, ladies dance the 'Garba' and rejoice with sweets. In Maharashtra, Simollanghan used to mark the crossing over of kings to fight their neighbouring kingdoms. They worshipped the 'Shami' tree and placed their weapons under it before embarking. Even today 'Simollanghan' is the time when weapons, implements, books etc. are worshipped. In Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka and



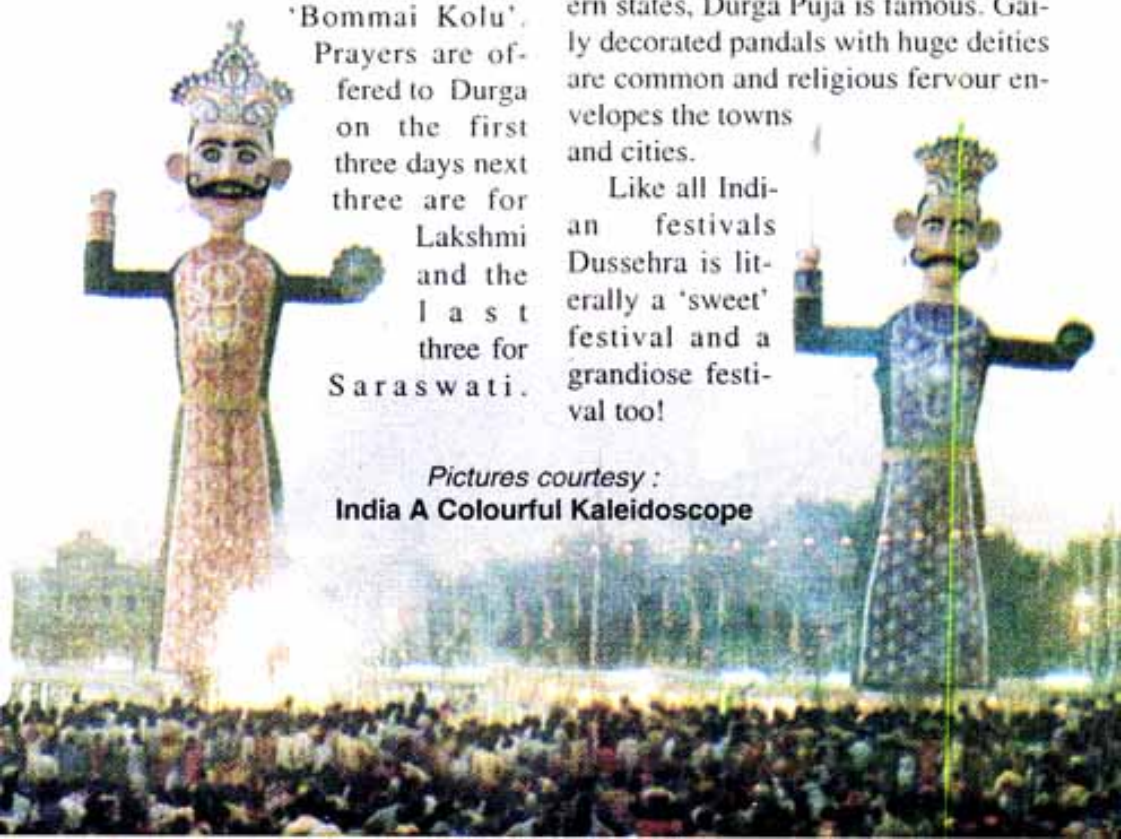
Andhra however the ninth day is for weapon worship albeit for a different reason. After Devi slayed Mahishasura, weapons were kept aside and worshiped. Arjuna, after living incognito along with his brothers for a number of years is said to have taken up his weapons on Vijayadashami day. Hence it is believed that if one begins work or learning on that day he will be successful.

Navarathri in Tamilnadu is celebrated with doll displays known as 'Bommai Kolu'. Prayers are offered to Durga on the first three days next three are for Lakshmi and the last three for Saraswati.

Mysore Dussehra is renowned for its grandeur. Goddess Chamundeeswari is taken in a procession on caprisoned elephants and the city is illuminated.

Moving on to Bengal and the Eastern states, Durga Puja is famous. Gaily decorated pandals with huge deities are common and religious fervour envelopes the towns and cities.

Like all Indian festivals Dussehra is literally a 'sweet' festival and a grandiose festival too!



Pictures courtesy :
India A Colourful Kaleidoscope

Snippets

★ The word 'set' is the word that has the most number of definitions in English. It has 248 definitions!

★ At present, India is the second most populous country with more than one billion people. It will estimatedly be the most populous country by the year 2045.

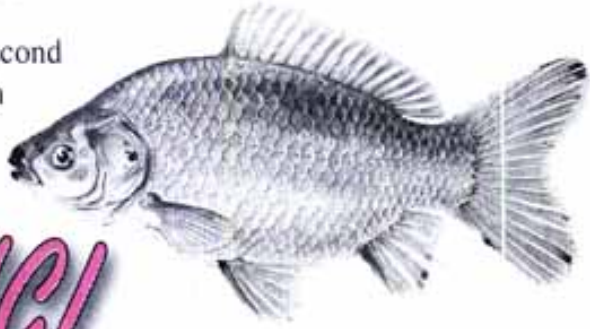
BOOTING!

★ Hurricane Andrew was the most expensive, that is, most destructive hurricane ever. Repair and rebuilding costs exceeded $9 billion.

★ The switches that were used to start the first computers were so big that they had to be kicked upon with boots to turn them on. That is why it is still called booting!

★ Nerve impulses to and from the brain travel at a speed of over 200 kmph.

★ Our brain contains 8 billion neurons and trillions of synapses at the time of birth.

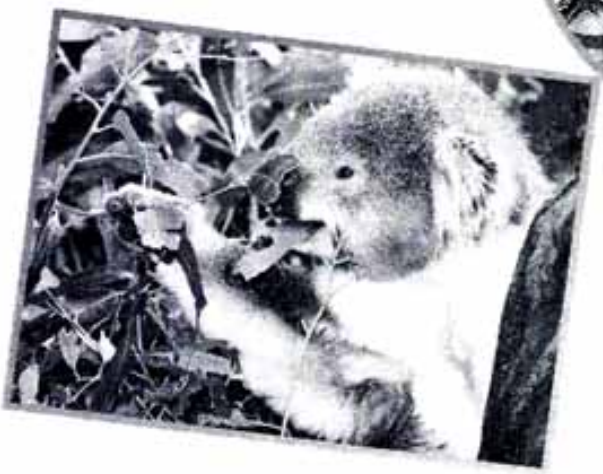


★ A goldfish has a memory span of only about three seconds.

★ The take-off speed of an aeroplane is about 500 - 600 kmph.

★ Our stomach lining contains almost 35 million tiny glands.

★ Many species of butterflies can travel upto almost 1000 km without eating!



★ A koala never drinks water during its life time! Instead, it gets its supplement from the leaves of the eucalyptus tree.

- G.S. Anush, Std.VII,
Indian School, Sohar,
Sultanate of Oman

- AVS Bhagyashree, Std.X,
St. Joseph's Public School,
Hyderabad

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WHAT'S WRONG WITH INDIAN CRICKET?

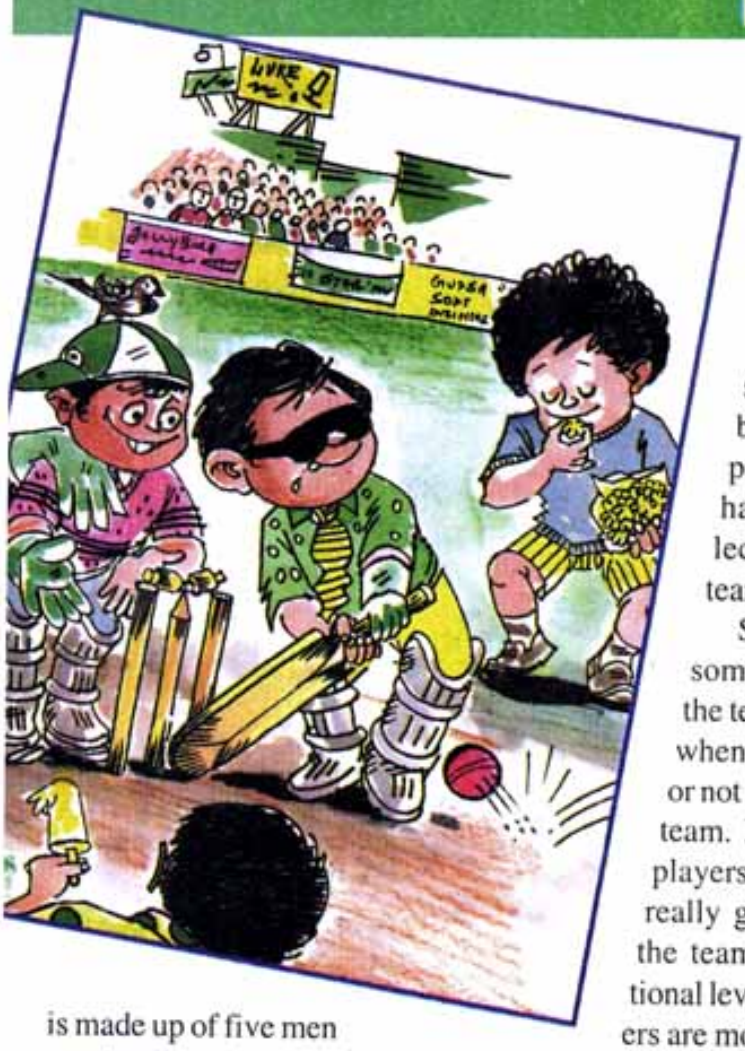
What is wrong with Indian cricket? Why do we promise so much and deliver so little when it matters most? Why can't we win finals of tournaments we reach? The questions flow fast and furious from all directions.

Unfortunately, there are no ready answers, except the most obvious ones: physical fitness, hard work, team spirit, discipline, and sincerity. It is not that India's cricketers do not have these qualities. The best of them have all these and more. We all know how talented, hard working and sincere Rahul Dravid and Anil Kumble are. But even they are treated roughly sometimes in Indian cricket. Kumble has been in and out of the team and Dravid was made captain for one series and removed from that position when others failed. Do you think players can go on performing well, like machines, when they are made to feel unwanted?

Or take the examples of youngsters tried for just one match or series and then forgotten forever. In recent years many medium pacers have come and gone even before you and I became familiar with their names.

The Indian selection committee

While the Indian men's cricket team is struggling to perform in the international arena, two women have been doing the country proud with their recent achievements. Kerala's long jumper Anju Bobby George won the silver medal at the Monaco World Athletics Championship. This is a great improvement on Anju's bronze winning display in the same event in 2003 at Paris. World No. 7 Anju jumped a length of 6.75m to finish



There are several things wrong with this cartoon. Spot them. Some of them are identified overleaf (page 14)

is made up of five men coming from the five zones; North, East, Central, West and South. These selectors are often busy trying to make the people in their zones happy, rather than selecting the best Indian team.

Such a system can help some players to get into the team and stay in it even when they are in poor form or not doing their best for the team. It can keep out good players. By and large, only really good players get into the team, because at the national level, almost all the players are more or less equally talented. The trouble starts when some of them do not apply them-

second behind Russia's World No. 1 Tatyana Kotova who cleared 6.83 metres for the gold medal. Sania Mirza's splendid deeds in the US Open, where she put up a great fight against Maria Sharapova in the last 16, have earned her the 34th rank in the world. Both these superb athletes have proved to be an inspiration not only to Indian women but also to Indian men.

selves enough to improve all the time. Sometimes, they may act selfishly and hurt the team. A player may hide an injury, afraid to lose his place to someone who will perform better. Another, afraid of failing against a strong team, may pretend to be injured, miss an important game, hoping to come back into the team against weaker opposition. Often such selfish players are not penalised in Indian cricket. At the same time, a player who sacrifices his wicket to help his team may not be rewarded. This happens all the way from kids' cricket to Test cricket.

The result is that Indian cricket has developed some problems that will not go away. I shall try to list some of these here :

1. Though there is a lot of improvement in the area of physical fitness and stamina, we are still behind other countries.

2. Though we have some brilliant young fielders, there are quite a few slow movers and moderate fielders in the side.

3. There is lack of trust between players in such areas as running between the wickets. Many scoring opportunities are missed and batsmen get run out because of poor understanding between the batsmen.

4. Players do not learn new skills or improve existing skills for the sake of the team. Take the case of our part-time bowlers. Tendulkar, Ganguly, Sehwag and Yuvraj Singh are all batsmen who can also bowl, but not one of them has developed into an effective bowler in ODIs sending down ten overs.

Young cricketers have to learn that cricket is a team game. They must know that honest effort to help the team is more important than their personal glory. If they work hard to practise these values as children, they will grow up to be team players. India can then be one of the best teams in the world.

Cover cartoon by :
Suman

MISTAKES IN THE CARTOON

(from page 13)

Batsman drooling, wearing dark glasses, tie, holding bat backside in front, pads upside down, one fielder eating popcorn, another eating ice cream, wicket keeper's cap with a bird on it, gloves on shoulder, midstump and bails in wrong positions.

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Name: **L. Supritha**
Age : 15
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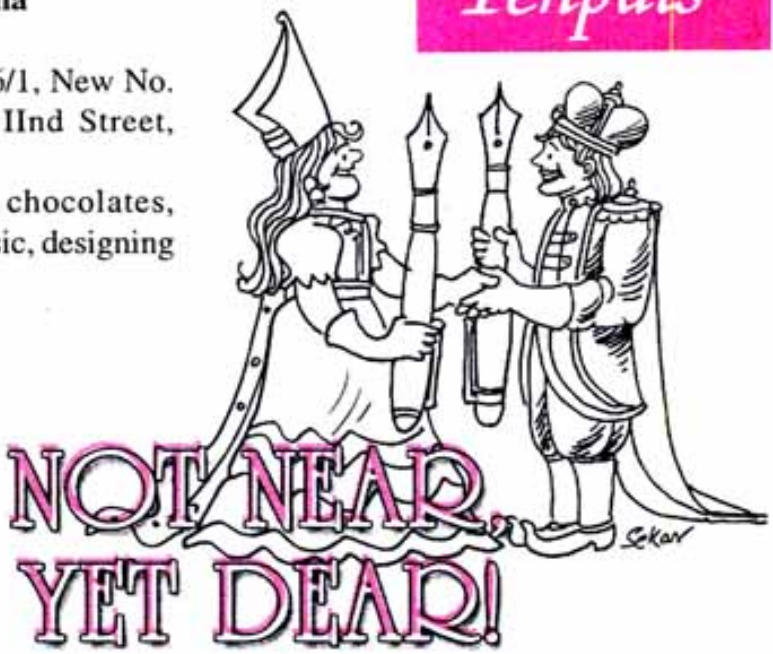

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Address : 4530, Chera Jrs, Sainik School, Amaravathi Nagar, Udumalpet, Coimbatore - 642 102.
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Age : 9
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Hobbies : Watching T.V, playing games, cycling, reading Gokulam.

Name: **Gandharv Garg**
Age : 12
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• You are most welcome to send in your contributions to **Gokulam** either by post or by e-mail.

Remember every contribution sent by you should give details of your - **Name, Age, Class, Name and address of school, Residential address and a declaration stating that the contribution is your original creation (if not, the source must be mentioned).**

However, we cannot guarantee that your contribution will be published. It is also not possible for us to tell you when it will be published. But, if you require your contribution to be sent back to you on rejection, then you must enclose a self addressed, stamped envelope.

- **Editor**

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE

You will receive a **participation certificate** from us if your contribution is published. At the end of the one year period ending June 2006, the person with most number of participation certificates will receive a special prize.

Begumpet, Hyderabad 500 016

Hobbies : Playing cricket, video games, reading Gokulam, surfing the net and listening to music.

Name: **S. Sowmya.**

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Hobbies : Reading books, watching TV, playing Badminton, playing computer games.

Name: **Ananya Dutta.**

Age : 12

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Hobbies : Reading, listening to music, writing stories and poems, making friends, drawing.

Name: **M. Devi**

Age : 14

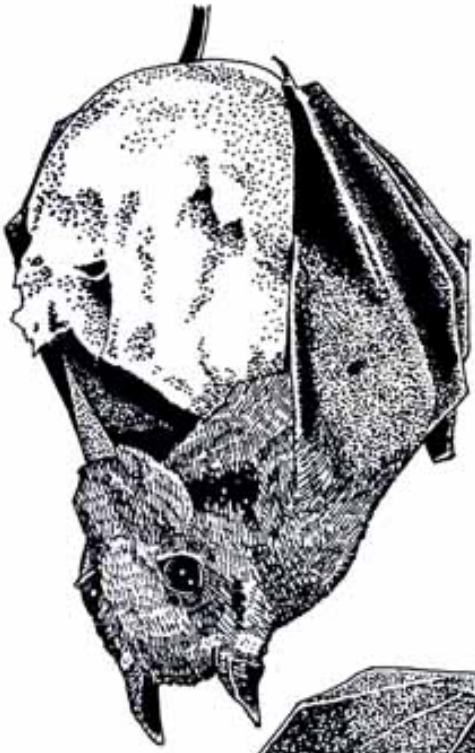
Address : 2/113A Kathiravan Salai, Neelankarai, Chennai 600 041

Hobbies : Reading novels, playing hockey and chess and listening to music.

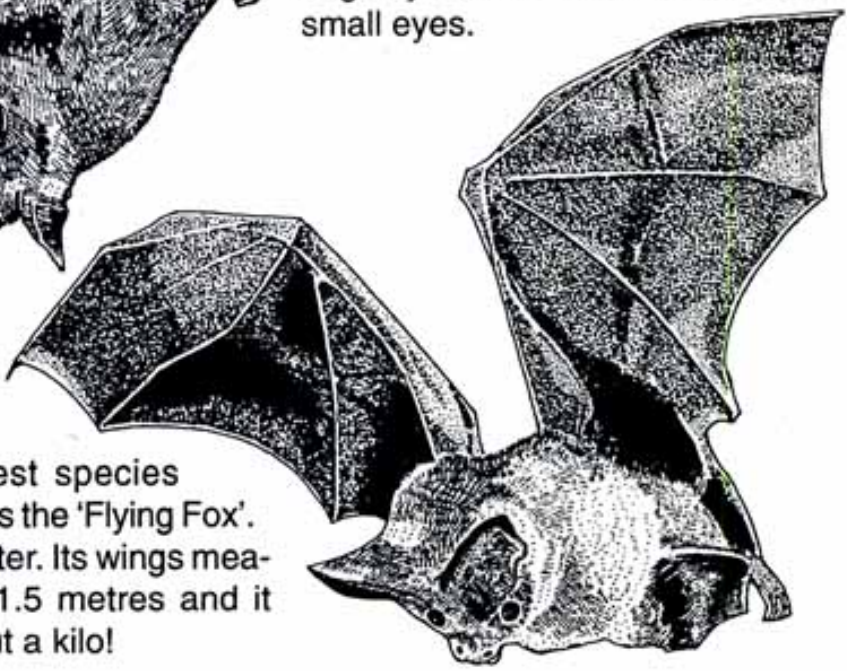
BLOOD THIRSTY BATS!

Aazhi

Bats are mammals. They give birth to and suckle their young ones. They have teeth. Although bats have wings, these wings are very different from those of birds. Bats belong to the 'Chiroptera' order.



There are about 2000 species of bats. They may be classified into two types namely fruit eaters and insect eaters. The fruit eaters have large eyes while insect eaters have small eyes.

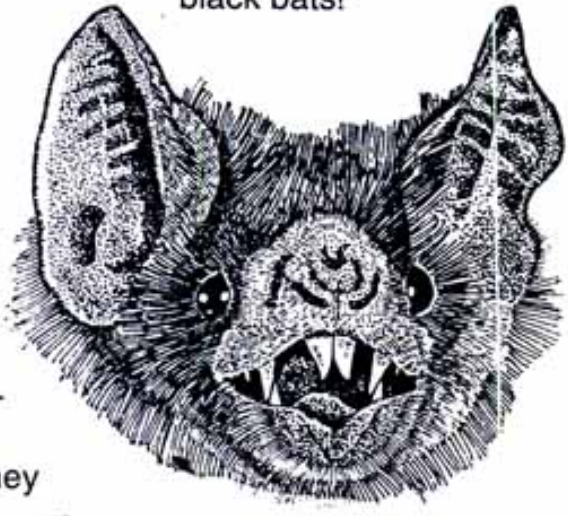


The largest species among bats is the 'Flying Fox'. It is a fruit eater. Its wings measure about 1.5 metres and it weighs about a kilo!

The smallest species is the 'Kitti'. It is the size of a peanut! It weighs only about 1.5 grams!

Bats vary in colour. There are yellow, red, brown, violet and black bats!

The insect-eaters among bats gobble up hundreds of insects in an hour. Mosquitoes and beetles are its prey. There are curved thorns on the inner tongue of these bats. An insect that touches the bat's tongue cannot escape!



Some bats are cruel! If they are very hungry, they gobble up their own friends and relatives!

About 70% of bats consume about 20 grams of blood per day! The South American Vampire bats are terribly dangerous.

These bats latch onto animals or humans and spray an anaesthetic fluid. They then bite with their teeth. A chemical in the bat's saliva prevents blood from clotting. This enables them to feast on the blood.

Bats have good eye sight. They can also fly blind folded. They use echolocation to find their way. They make high pitched sounds which bounce off objects and return to them as echoes.

A bat gives birth to only one offspring in a year. The baby bat (pup) is blind until it is five days old. It can fly only after it is 14 days old. When the mother bat gets back home, it cannot identify its own pup. But, the pup will take milk from any mother bat.

Some species of North American bats fly down to Mexico, which is about 2500 kms away, during the winter months. However, after spending a few months there, they unerringly return to their homes. A remarkable feat!

Some bats hibernate for seven months in a year. They donot feed during hibernation. The accumulated fat in their body gives them energy during this period. A bat normally breathes 200 times a minute, but during hibernation it drops to 20 times a minute. The normal body temperature of bats, 104°F, drops to 42°F.

Generally, bats cannot walk. But a particular species of bats in the forests of Africa can walk!

Experience HONESTY

This incident took place last year when I was an eighth standard student. It was a good year for me. During the third unit test I got 40/40 in my social studies paper. Everyone was shocked as they knew I had missed a two mark question. I noticed that the teacher had given me four marks for a two mark question. One of my good friends, Jyoti, who was checking my paper noticed this and wanted to tell the teacher. She had got 38/40 and felt I should also get the same. Aarthi and myself told her not to do so. But, when I thought about it, I knew it was wrong. I walked up to Sir and pointed out the mistake and got 38/40. I was very sad. I even cried because I wouldn't get a good rank this time. My friends consoled me by saying it was better to be honest. Sure enough I got a reward. I scored full marks in Hindi and stood second in my class. I learnt a good lesson and advise you

GREAT FALL!

One day my friend Shabir and I were climbing trees. I was tired of climbing. So I went to rest on a branch. For the fun of it, my friend shook the tree. The branch on which I was perched was probably weak. It broke and I fell into a water tank which was beneath the branch. Luckily my friend reacted quickly. He gave me a hand and saved my life. From that day, my friend and I don't climb trees.

- Raheem Abdul, Std.VI, The Oxford Senior Sec. School, Bangalore

-The Best Policy!

friends too - Honesty is the best policy.

- Geethanjali, Std.IX,
K.V. II , Chennai

SLOW AND STEADY!

When I was in the sixth standard I learnt cycling. My grandmother permitted me to ride to school. But she gave me several instructions and asked me to be very careful while crossing roads.

I followed her advice and cycled down. On the first day when I was just entering the gate, our English teacher saw me. When I caught sight of her I became panicky and I drove the cycle directly onto her. She had grasped the situation, my fear and panic and she stopped the cycle by putting her hand onto the cycle handle bar. I repeatedly told her "Sorry", but she gently stroked my head and told me that I should be very steady while driving any vehicle. I follow her advice till date and so far no accident has occurred.

- R. Kalaiselvi, Std.VII,
Lamex HSS, Chennai

Jokes

Chemistry Teacher : What steps would you take if sulphur dioxide escaped into the room?

Student : Long ones!

- Vivek C. Vijayan, Std.IX, Bangalore

Teacher : Who broke King Janaka's bow?

Naughty Student : Promise! I didn't, miss!

- Ranjani Suresh, Std.V, Chennai

YOU ASKED FOR IT!

Teacher : What is the opposite of 'interior'?

Ram : Exterior.

Teacher : Good! Shyam, give me the opposite of 'minimum'?

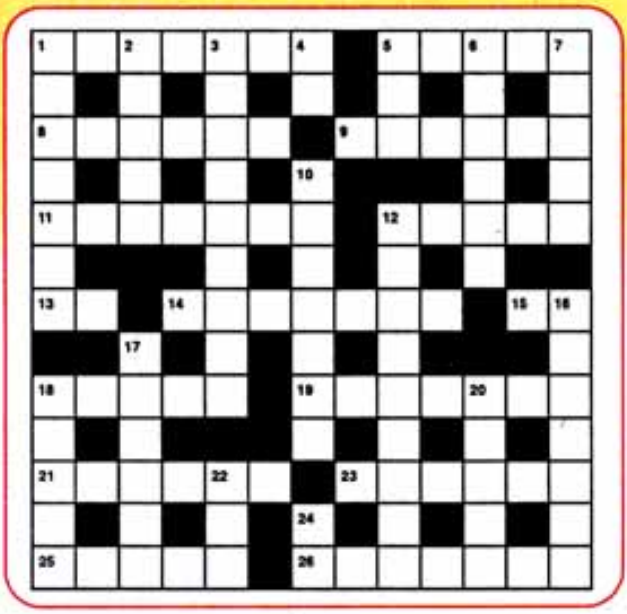
Shyam : Maxi Dad!

- Priya R.Prakash, Bangalore

Teacher : Amoeba are very minute. You cannot see them with naked eyes.

Student : I'm wearing spectacles. I still can't see them!

- Mary Veronica Amritaa, Std.VIII, Trichy



KRISH CROSS 4

Clues Across :

1. Our National Bird - 'mutter' in English, followed by rooster (7)

5. Person on horseback (to solve) a geometrical problem (5)

8. Founder of modern a septic surgery. Did he catalogue? (6)

9. Worships advts. with mineral inside (6)

11. Is Saurav Ganguly an Army officer or Ship Commander? (7)

12. Tasty potato snacks from Intel (5)

13. An emphatic negative (2)

14. Heavy weight worth a thousand centuries (7)

15. Medicine man in short (2)

18. Has Ian Chappell been hiding an inhabitant of our continent? (5)

19. Biology branch concerned with environment (7)

21. Mad character from 'Alice in Wonderland', with a cap in the lead (6)

23. Plot is confused with a handgun (6)

25. Tennis sensation Mirza--a strange Asian (5)

26. With clarity, yell car is smashed! (7)

Clues Down :

1. A big fish-eating bird perplexes cine pal (7)

2. Greek writer of fables strikes a pose (5)

3. What a surgeon performs in a theatre (9)

4. A knock-out is not okay. Quite the contrary (1, 1)

5. Danger signal for the communist (3)

6. British Naturalist propounded Evolution Theory - in ward? (6)

7. Pink flowers, will smell sweet by any name (5)

10. Game played with coloured balls, somewhat similar to Billiards (7)

12. A thick-skinned reptile, which sheds false tears! (9)

16. Y.Taylor obtains kingly status and income from his writings (7)

17. Cartoon Adventurer in search of silver-coloured metal (Sn) twice (6)

18. Australia and England cricket teams fight for burnt residues (6)

20. Potter loses head over an aquatic mammal (5)

22. Ear twisted in historical period of time (3)

24. P. Chidambaram's Personal computer. (1, 1)

Note : 1. Figures in brackets indicate no. of letters

2. Watch out for anagrams - jumbling of words to find solution to clues.

- Devised by Krishnaswamy

★ Rules and Entry form on reverse

ENTRY FORM

Name : (Mr/Ms) .....

Age : ..... Class .....

School : .....

*Residential Address : .....

..... Pin .....

Signature : .....

* Local address is a must for overseas entries.

The Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings,
47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

• Strictly for school going children • Five lucky winners will get a cash award of Rs.50/- each. They will be decided by a draw of lots from out of the all correct entries. • Entries with completed grid on reverse accepted on this form only • No xerox copies. **Last Date : 12.10.2005**

Congratulations!

The Five lucky winners

1. **S. Gautham,** Std.VII, Tagore International School, New Delhi.
2. **Mrinalini Vasudevan,** Std.IX, K.V. Gopalpur Cantt, Orissa
3. **V.Maanasa,** Primary 3, Geylang Methodist Primary School, Singapore
4. **S.Vibhaalakshmi,** Std.V, DAV Girls Senior Secondary School, Chennai.
5. **S.Kailas Nath,** Std.V, St. Pauls EMHSS, Malappuram, Kerala

Solution to Krish Cross - 3

1 R	A	2 M	A	3 N	U	J	A	4 N	■	5 T	O	6 N
A	■	I	■	E	■	■	■	A	■	I	■	E
7 H	O	C	K	E	Y	■	8 W	I	N	D	O	W
U	■	K	■	D	■	9 D	■	L	■	E	■	T
10 L	I	E	■	11 L	12 B	A	13 F	■	14 B	S	L	O
■	■	15 Y	16 A	E	L	D	I	N	G	■	■	N
■	■	■	O	■	I	■	L	■	R	■	■	■
17 B	■	■	18 H	O	V	E	M	19 B	E	20 R	■	■
21 A	I	22 L	S	■	E	■	■	U	■	23 I	C	24 E
N	■	U	■	25 Z	■	■	■	R	■	D	■	A
26 E	U	C	L	I	D	■	27 L	E	A	D	E	R
S	■	K	■	N	■	■	■	A	■	L	■	N
28 H	A	Y	■	29 C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	S

WHOM TO INVITE?

Story : **S. Rajagopal** *Illustration :* **Mahesh**

Why?
He is Wealth and he's Victory. I'm Love. You may go home and decide which of us you would like to invite.
Kamala related the conversation to her husband.
Bring wealth.
I'd prefer victory!
Dad... let's invite Love.
Kamala invited Love.
We invited only Grandpa Love... but all three of you are here...?
If you had invited Wealth or Victory, the other two would have stayed back.
But you invited 'Love'. Wherever he goes, we follow even if we are not invited!
Thanks!

Word Power

Hi friends!

In the last issue I promised to answer a few of your questions. So here goes:

? What is the difference between 'danger' and 'endanger' ; 'able' and 'enable'?

- Prashant Pai, Alike, Karnataka

Any exposure to harm is called 'danger'. For e.g.: a city can be in danger, because of terrorists carrying out bombings.

'Endanger' means to imperil or put to danger. For e.g.: tigers are endangered.

'Able' means to have ability or potential. An able person is one who has the required talent or capability to carry out a given task.

'Enable' means to empower or to supply with means to do something.

The knowledge of nuclear fission enabled scientists to create atomic weapons (refered to howadays as weapons of mass destruction).

? What is phonetics? For what purpose is it used?

-Muḍasir Ahmad Changa, Sopore, Jammu & Kashmir

Phonetics is the study of how sounds of speech are made, transmitted, and received. It is

distinct from phonology which is the study of sounds in any language.

The smallest unit of sound is known as a phoneme. The phonemic alphabet is a complete set of symbols, each of which represents a single sound belonging to a specific language.

Phonemic symbols are used in all dictionaries to indicate the pronunciation of each word.

Thus its use is in its aid in pronunciation. Using special symbols for each type of sound, we can pronounce a word correctly if we follow the correct symbol.

/ k / = the 'c' in cap

The above is a symbol used for representing 'c' in 'cap'.

The International Phonetic Alphabet [IPA] is a set of symbols which attempts to represent every unit of sound contained in every known language. This is used by all standard dictionaries.

WHAT ARE IDIOMS?

? What mnemonics can you use for remembering friend, thief, experience, achieve, advice (or advise) and government?

- G.Ragavijaya, Neyveli Township

For friend, thief, experience and achieve there is a simple rule to remember regarding which comes first, 'i' or 'e'.

'I' before an 'e' except after a 'c'.

Thus it is **friend**, but it is **receive**. Notice that in 'receive', there is a 'c' before the two vowels and hence 'e' comes first. There are a miniscule number of exceptions to this but you will not come across it in normal usage.

Advice is the noun form while advise is the verb. As mentioned in the August issue, the noun forms in such words (other words include licence and practice) have a 'c' while the verb has an 's'.

A government is one which governs. So just add the noun suffix **–ment** to **govern** to get government.

Finally, **Aishwarya Mohapatra from Bhubaneshwar** had requested for information on idioms.

So what are idioms?

Idioms are words, phrases, or

expressions that are unusual either grammatically or there is a meaning that cannot be derived from the original meanings of the words. Every language has idioms. This is why a language is so difficult for a person who is trying to learn a foreign language.

IT'S RAINING CATS and DOGS

So here are a few idioms.

1) To break the ice

It means to make a beginning, usually to get through the first difficulties in starting a conversation or discussion.

2) It's raining cats and dogs today

Meaning: It's raining heavily.

3) On the dot

Meaning: Exactly at a given time

4) Read someone's mind

Meaning: Guess what a person is thinking and how a person is going to act.

5) Race against time

Meaning: Something must be finished by a deadline, or a due date.

Try to guess the meanings of the following idioms

1) Rub someone the wrong way.

2) To be in seventh heaven.

3) Stick to one's guns.

4) Put two and two together.

5) Know something inside out.

Answers :

1) Irritate a person or get into his bad books. 2) To be supremely delighted or exhilarated. 3) Insist on your point or that you are right in the face of opposition. 4) Deduce or solve something 5) Know something very well (or by-heart).

Story

MITTU, THE HERO!

It was a fine and pleasant Sunday morning. A bird seller was selling birds in the street, I love parrots and wanted to buy one. My mother agreed. We both went to him.

The bird seller had many colourful birds - parrots, parakeets, pigeons etc. He showed us a parrot which was very bright green and had a glossy red beak. It looked cute and attractive. We both liked it very much. The bird seller told us that it was very talkative and it would prove to be a good pet. We were surprised when the parrot said in a sweet voice "Take me! Take me!!" We were excited and bought it at once.

I called it 'Mittu' and kept it on a rod in the drawing room.

But the trouble started next day. When I woke up in the morning, I heard some bad words which had never been used in our house. I was shocked to hear that it was none other than Mittu speaking those words.

My mother said "It's been screaming since morning. I think it had been in the company of bad men. It will take some time to change its behaviour."

In the evening I took Mittu to my friend Ramu's house. There Mittu created a ruckus. It flew into the kitchen and messed it up. Mittu also began calling my friends 'stupid and idiot'. My friends were surprised to hear such words from a parrot, but laughed away. I felt ashamed of Mittu's behaviour.

Mittu had the habit of frightening everyone by shouting 'fire - fire' and 'thief - thief'. One day when my uncle came to our house, Mittu shouted "Stupid, get out" We were terribly embarrassed.

After two days, I told my mother "I shall give Mittu back to the bird seller because my friends refuse to play with me."

My mother said "No, you must

train Mittu to be a good pet"

I replied, "OK, I'll try my best."

My friends and I started teaching good words to Mittu.

After some days, my friends and I went to Ramesh's birthday party. As usual Mittu followed us. Ramesh's house was gaily decorated. I put Mittu carefully on my shoulders. Now and then Mittu would fly here and there. But I kept a watch on it because Mittu was still mischievous.

While it was perching on a showcase, Mittu suddenly screeched "fire - fire". I scolded, "Shut up, Mittu".

Mittu did not stop screaming. My friends and I looked up and saw fire on one of the decorated serial light wires. We also started shouting, "fire - fire".

Ramesh's father who heard our cries brought a wooden stick and switched off the main switch. The fire was put out and later an electrician was called and the power supply was restored.

All the guests and friends praised Mittu for saving us all from a fire accident. Mittu became a hero. I was also proud of having Mittu as my pet.

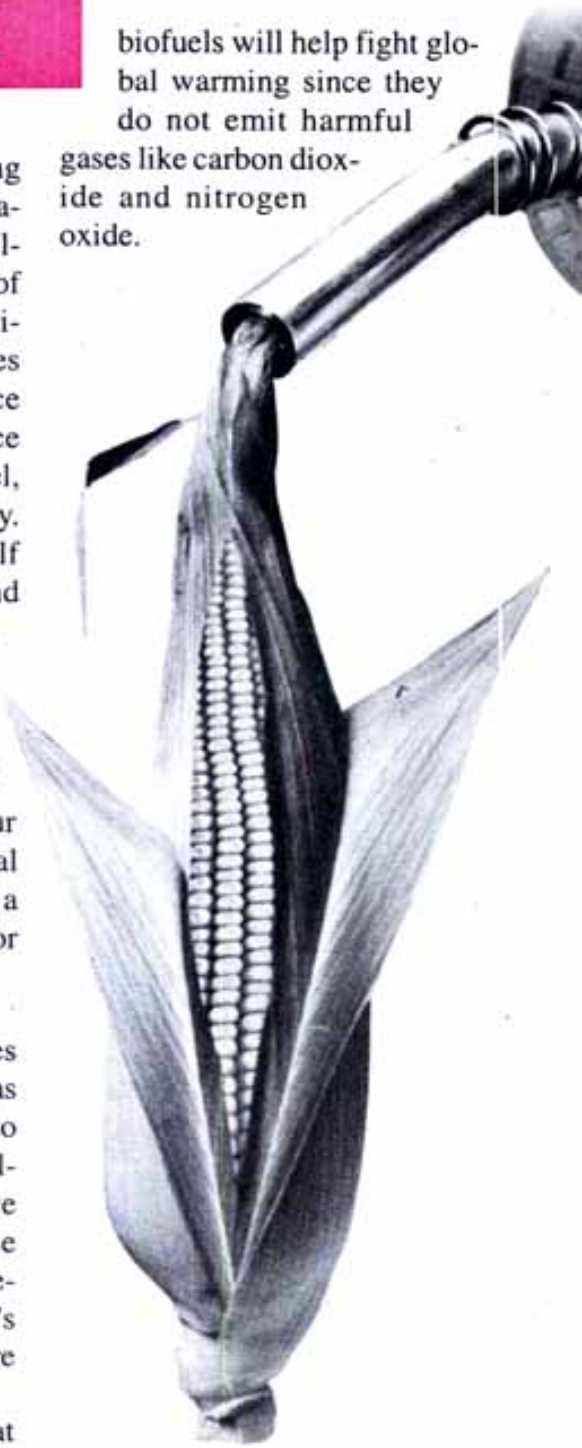
- Merlyn Davis, Std.VI,
St. Ursula's AIHS School,
Church Park, Chennai

The oil crisis and sky rocketing oil prices are proving to be major causes of distress even to developed nations. Alternative sources of energy (fuels) are now becoming viable. Sugarcane producing countries like India and Brazil could produce Ethanol (Ethyl Alcohol) and replace 10% of the Global (gasoline) fuel, states NEWSWEEK in a cover story.

When Henry Ford and Rudolf Diesel invented the automobile and diesel engine respectively, they expected it to be powered by fuels derived from plants. It was only because petrol and diesel were more economical that we used them and have nearly exhausted our natural oil resources. It is ironical that after a century, we have come a full circle and are reaching out for biofuels!

We all know that nature takes millions of years to make oil whereas biofuel production is limited only to growth rates of plants and availability of agricultural land. Again if we can reuse waste matter to produce biofuel, even that limitation is removed. A year's worth of Europe's waste cooking oil could yield more than a billion litres of biofuel!

Another big bonus would be that biofuels will help fight global warming since they do not emit harmful gases like carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide.



PLANT POWER!

Yes, biofuel is the panacea for the oil crisis. But what is biofuel? How can an agricultural economy like India produce it? Can it really replace gasoline (petrol / diesel)?

Ethanol can be easily derived from starchy grains and sugarcane by distillation. In fact, Brazil the world's largest ethanol producer began distilling sugarcane in 1975, and today uses 22 - 26% ethanol in lieu of gasoline.

Starchy grains are ground and soaked. Enzymes convert the starch into dextrose (simple sugar). Yeast is added to ferment it. After 40 - 50 hours ethanol is distilled after filtering off the by - products. Similarly fatty oils from rapeseed and

soyabean yield triglycerides. After heating, methanol and a catalyst is added to break them into glycerol and esters. Esters form the biofuel.

If India can increase area under cultivation and develop high yielding varieties of sugarcane, oil palms, soyabeans and coconut, we can easily produce a major portion of our fuel requirements. Although ethanol delivers less energy per litre, it can be used along with gasoline, or even by itself, to power automobiles and aircrafts.

Biofuels have moved out from labs to industry. Already several entrepreneurs in different countries and fields have switched to ethanol. Research on other raw materials is in progress. The day is not far off when petroleum would become obsolete and the whole world is literally driven by plant power!

Serial Chapter-4

THE CASE OF THE MISSING CHILDREN

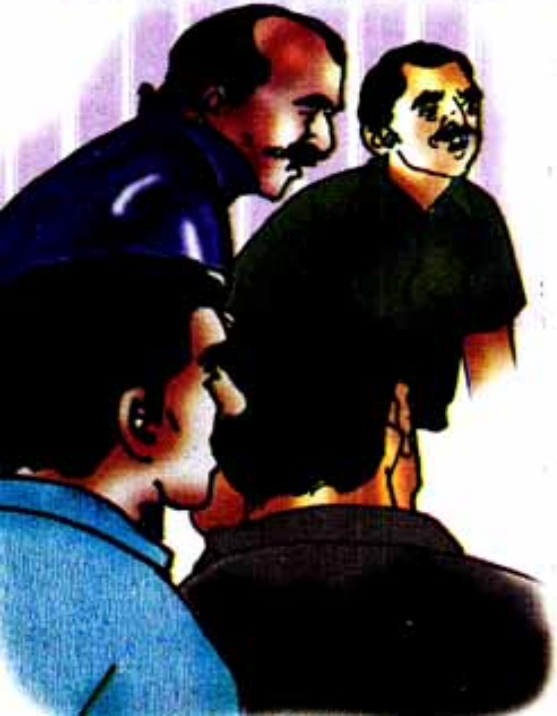
The story so far :

DCP Vinod, an intelligent officer, was deputed to investigate the spate of kidnappings that had taken place in Delhi and left the public panic stricken.

At home Vinod's wife Kamal was worried about their only son Vignesh's safety because his classmate Karthik had been kidnapped too. Vinod and Vignesh convinced Kamal that he would be okay.

However Vignesh was kidnapped by two hefty men in an auto near school and taken to a ramshackle cottage. The kidnappers called up Kamal and demanded ten lakh rupees as ransom. Kamal was hysterical. Vinod pacified her, briefed the press and got back to work to nab the culprits.

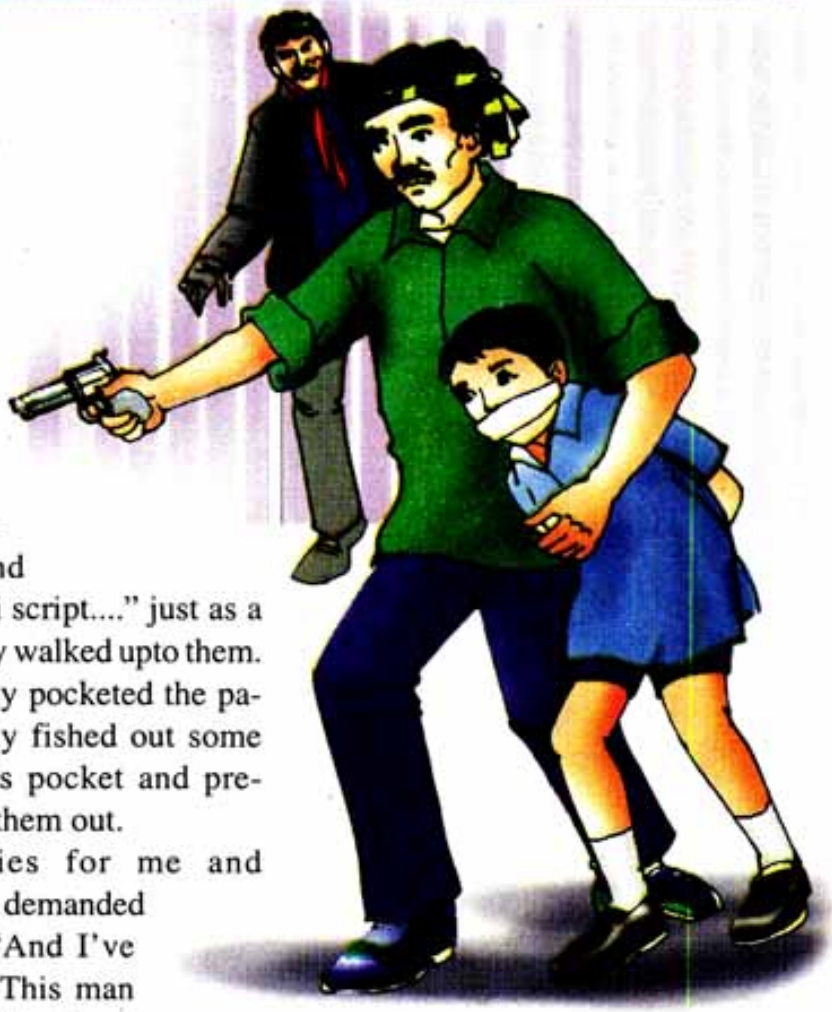
Sanjoo and his men who had kidnapped several children watched the news on T.V. Sanjoo asked his men to find out who had abducted Vignesh - whether it was his own gang member or a new gang.



In the meantime, Raghu one of Sanjoo's gang members who had kidnapped Karthik chatted up a petty shopkeeper near school and found out that a 'baldie' had waited in an auto near school. The baldie had dropped a slip of paper in the shop while he paid for his cigarettes. Something had been scribbled on the paper in a different script.

Now read on :

Raghu was thrilled. "Really?



What does it say?"

"Don't know... Can't read that script" mumbled the shopkeeper.

"Show me, we'll decipher it together." Raghu held out his hand. He glanced at it and said, "Gurmukhi script...." just as a constable on duty walked upto them.

Raghu quickly pocketed the paper. He hurriedly fished out some change from his pocket and pretended to count them out.

"Two beedies for me and matches, quick", demanded the constable. "And I've been watching. This man seems to be here for a long time. Hey... what are you two upto?

For a moment, Raghu was taken aback. But he quickly recovered and said, "Nothing... nothing saab! I belong to his village... Just dropped in to give him all the news. Okay bhaiya. I'll make a move. Come home sometime." He slipped away leaving the constable perplexed.

Raghu got into an auto and directed the driver to Patparganj area of the city.

'Aha, got them!' he thought to himself. The slip of paper was a bill and at the back of it was written some notes is Gurmukhi which was not of any significance. But the bill was for items purchased in a shop in Patparganj.

'I'll have to spot them some - how. Hopefully, the same tactics should work... some tea shop or beedi shop in that area...'

Gopal : To whom are you writing out this cheque for thousand rupees?

Gokul : I'm sending it to my sister for her birthday.

Gopal : You forgot to sign it!

Gokul : No, I don't want her to know who sent it!

- G.B. Abhishek, Age 13, Alike, Karnataka

In the meantime, the constable was still suspicious about the man who had fled suddenly. He had been given strict instructions to report just this kind of activity.

He walked down to the nearest sub-inspector who had a walkie talkie and asked him to inform headquarters. The SI was very excited when he heard the report.

"Shabash! Commissioner sa'ab will give us a promotion. But... wait a minute. What was the auto registration number? Did you note it down?"

The constable's face fell. "Sir... no sir. I told you he fled in a trice."

"You fool! What will headquarters do without the number? Anyway, describe the man yourself... Here...." he handed over the walkie talkie.

Raghu got himself dropped at a tea stall. 'Today is the luckiest day of my life!' Raghu said to himself as he sat on a bench occupied by a couple of others. There beside him sat a bald man with exactly the same features as described by the petty shopkeeper.

The baldie held a glass of steaming tea in one hand and a newspaper in another. Raghu ordered his tea and picked up a bun from the stall. He asked the baldie if he could borrow the newspaper.

"These kidnappings...." began Raghu. "Imagine kidnapping the DCP's son! Why would anyone do that?"

"DCP... big man! Plenty of money! What else?" the baldie explained.

"Ha, ha, ha... you are a simpleton. um... um... your name?"

THE CASE OF THE MISSING CHILDREN! SURPRISE ENDING CONTEST!

Hey kids! Hope you've been following the Case of the Missing Children closely. Remember to participate in the contest at the end of the next chapter. (Chapter 5)

"Bhola... and yours...?"

"Raghu. As I was saying, Bhola, kids are kidnapped nowadays for other things, not for ransom. Cute kids are sold to childless foreigners who pay a hefty price for adopting them. But more often kids are exported to other countries for different purposes. Camel racing in the Gulf for example. They are sold as slaves too and..."

Bhola was apparently very impressed with Raghu's knowledge on the matter. He invited Raghu home. Raghu was angling for just this invitation. He accepted at once.

They continued their discussion at home. Suddenly Billa, Bhola's accomplice walked in with a gagged up Vignesh! Before Bhola could give any explanation, Raghu got up and extended his hand to Billa. "Welcome brother! Don't worry, I'm not surprised. In fact I was expecting just this. Actually, we are birds of a feather, no wonder, we flock together... ha... ha... ha... I've been telling Bhola you are fools to be risking so much for just a ransom. That too, the DCP's son. By all means do it yaar, but do it in style. Come along, meet my boss. We'll discuss terms. You can join our gang."

Billa retorted, "Hey you! what do you think of us. We are no less than your boss. If he wants to meet us he can come here. Tell him."

Raghu reported the matter to Sanjoo. Sanjoo was stunned but he decided to go along with a few gang members to meet them.

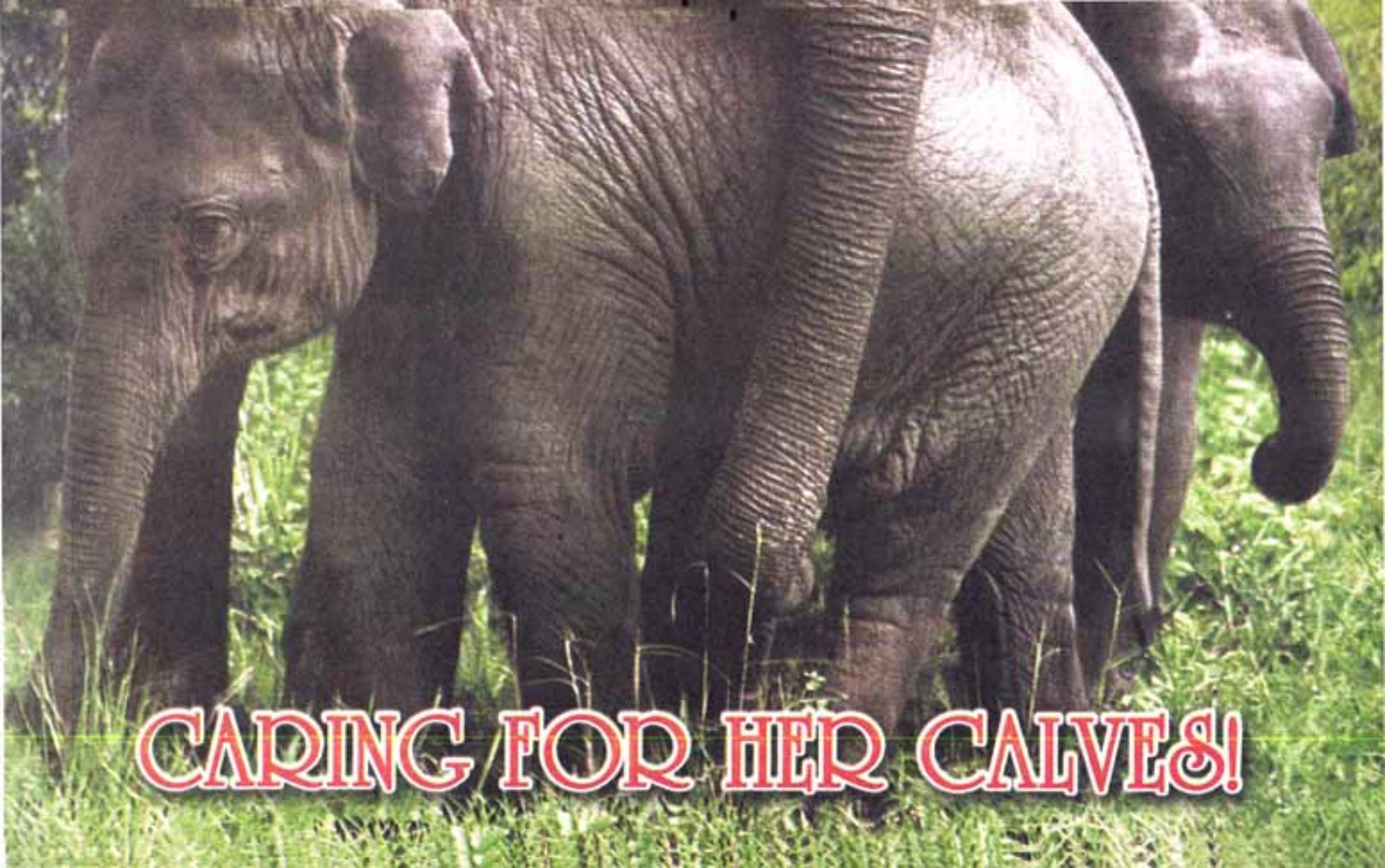
At their place, Sanjoo used all his persuasive tactics to rope them into his gang. But Billa and Bhola were not too eager.

"We'll think about it. Give us two days time" said Bhola.

Suddenly Sanjoo whipped out a gun and grabbed Vignesh!

(To be continued)

GOKULAM
Poster


CARING FOR HER CALVES!

Book Nook

FAIRY TALES FOR US!

Two stories that bring 'magic' to ordinary people in Indian cities and towns!

There are two fairy tales in this book. But the surprise is that they are not about 'far away' and 'long ago'. They are about surprising things that happen to people like you and me, living our "ordinary" lives in towns and cities.

The first one, "Ordinary Mr Pai" is about a man who lives with his mynah in a room in Mumbai. After he feeds his mynah every morning, he starts his boring day : train to work, late to office, dusty files and mean boss. But one Wednesday he helps a crow with a broken wing, and suddenly it starts talking to him and then the magic happens.

In the second story, "Bangles for Bansode" we meet a mean house owner who is hated by all the 553 tenants who live in his "Africa House". There is only one tap for all of them to draw water, the stairs have loose boards, the ceiling drips, the walls have cracks and yet Bansode collects rent and comes down hard on those who don't pay. A new tenant arrives: a small girl, Megha, who sits on a wheelchair and types for money. When she does not pay on time, he takes away her typewriter, and as though that is not enough, tries to take her dreams! And then the horrible thing happens to Bansode....

These two simple stories,

though set in ordinary places have a bit of fantasy in them and make you smile and give you hope. Written by Kalpana Swaminathan a children's surgeon in Mumbai, the book has nice big illustrations by Phani Tefali. **"Ordinary Mr. Pai - Two Urban Fairy Tales."** is published by **Tulika, 7 Prithvi Avenue, Chennai - 600 018,** who bring out new and readable Indian tales with nice illustrations. It costs Rs70.

Excerpt :

....he opened the door.

A tall girl stood outside. Her beauteous face was bathed in tears, just as Mr Pai knew it would be. "Oh please," she whispered (just as Mr Pai knew she would). "There is a dragon downstairs."

It was the Silken Princess, of course - who else could it be – and by now the dragon was steaming up the stairs, taking two at a time. "Come in," said Mr Pai, as intrepidly as he could, glancing fearfully down the stairwell. Faint green wreaths of smoke were drifting up already.

The Princess curled up comfortably in Mr Pai's canvas chair, munching chocolate cream and urging the bird to an encore, when a long green tongue came snaking in beneath the door.

"It is the dragon, "said Mr Pai nervously," and it wants to come in."

"Go right on and kill it," sang out the Princess. " Brandish your magic sword!" Mr Pai looked round wildly for his magic sword, but he could not even find the old black umbrella that usually hung behind the door. The Bird of Paradise laughed derisively and the Princess calmly started on the orange cream. But the dragon had already opened the door.

SHERLOCK 3 SHANKAR HOLMES

Story : Maayuran Pic : Ramki

Oh! I forgot. Gomathi wanted to go shopping for wedding jewellery and clothes. She wanted you to send somebody to escort her.
Who is it? What photo?
My office work ... Give it to me.
I can't organise at the drop of a hat! Shankar has a holiday. Send him.

Shankar went with Gomathi and Shiva in an auto.
Let's first draw the money from the ATM.
In the jewellery shop -
Show me that long chain.
Enough. Let's go.
In the saree shop-
Select only the silk sarees now...
It will take a long time. Pay off the auto.
After the saree shopping -
I'm tired. Let's eat in the hotel.
Okay. Shankar what'll you have?

They got back home.

You had a briefcase with you... Where's it?

Look properly.

But... Only the sarees and my handbag are here. Your briefcase...?

O God! The jewellery and the money was in that case!

I don't know. I'm feeling giddy!

What? 40 sovereigns of jewellery? Where did you leave it?

We didn't leave it in the shops. I saw it when we were getting back in the auto. I'm sure.

Did we leave it in the auto? How do we find the auto?

Fine. But will we get it back...?

Uncle, let's go to the police station.

To be continued.

Story

THE SLEEPY OWL

Tawnia Hoots, mother of young Shoots, hopped about nervously on the lower branch of a huge mango tree as she waited for Madame Hootuu, Principal, the Wise Hooters Academy.

For the Nth time, young Mrs. Hoots wondered what her little fellow, Shoots had been up to! He was a mischievous, little barn owl - but, surely, not bad! She heard a piercing, dominating "TU-WHOO!" from the highest branch of the mango tree.

Tawnia Hoots was being called!

Tawnia Hoots looked up at her former Principal.

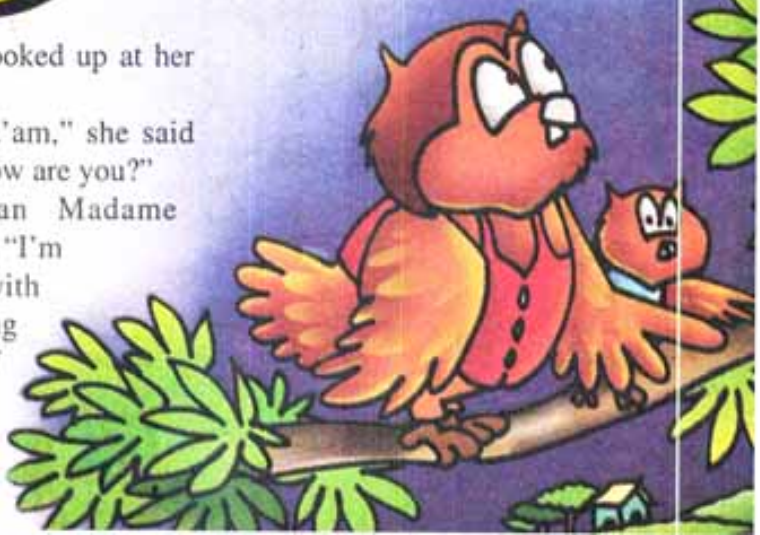
"Good night, Ma'am," she said rather nervously. "How are you?"

"Tawnia", began Madame Hootuu rather sternly. "I'm having a problem with Shoots! He is falling asleep in class! Of late, his gliding has become sloppy! He flaps his wings noisily instead of gliding!" - Madame Hootuu went on. "He mumbles - not hoots! I tell you, Tawnia, something is wrong with that owlet of yours and you BETTER find out what it is!"

Shoots - not doing well in school? But Shoots loved the Academy. "I really don't know, Ma'am", Tawnia said worriedly. "But I will find out what's wrong!"

The sun was peeping out as Tawnia flew back the thirty-tree distance to her house.

The Hoots lived in a huge, old Banyan tree that stood next to an old sprawling house. The spread-out branches were just right for a young family to live in and the Hoots had



had a hoot of a time setting up their home there!

Recently, a family had moved into the house - a dad, a mom and their three children. A decent day's sleep had become impossible! Booming loud noises in the afternoon often disturbed their sleep!

Landing softly on the topmost branch, Tawnia quickly hopped her way to the hole which was their room! Mr. Hoots was already curled up - getting ready to sleep!

"What's the matter, Tawnia?" he asked her. Tawnia hooted out everything that Madame Hootuu had told her about Shoots.

"Don't worry?", he told her, "We'll sort it out later in the night... Now, let's sleep shall we? Just check on Shoots before you sleep!"

Tawnia flew down to a lower branch where Shoots now had his own hole almost at the end of a long branch.

Tawnia peeped into Shoots's hole...

IT WAS EMPTY! Shoots was NOT there!

"Huh! Where's Shoots? He's not in bed!" she hooted in distress. "Where can he be?"

Tawnia fretted."Has Shoots had an accident?! Lost his way?"

Tawnia woke up Mr. Hoots. They decided to go back to the Academy and start searching from there.

At each and every hole along the thirty-tree distance to their house they stopped and searched.... looking.... Where was little shoots? Tawnia was in tears.

Tiredly, they landed on the topmost branch of the huge, banyan tree that was their home, wondering what to do next!

All owls, except the Hoot family, were fast asleep.

The big house was noisy as usual! Loud sounds were coming from inside through the open window. Now there were boom-boom noises! Suddenly, peoples' voices!

"What is happening in there?" Mr. Hoots wondered, "Where do the noises and sounds come from? Come on Tawnia, let's take a look!"

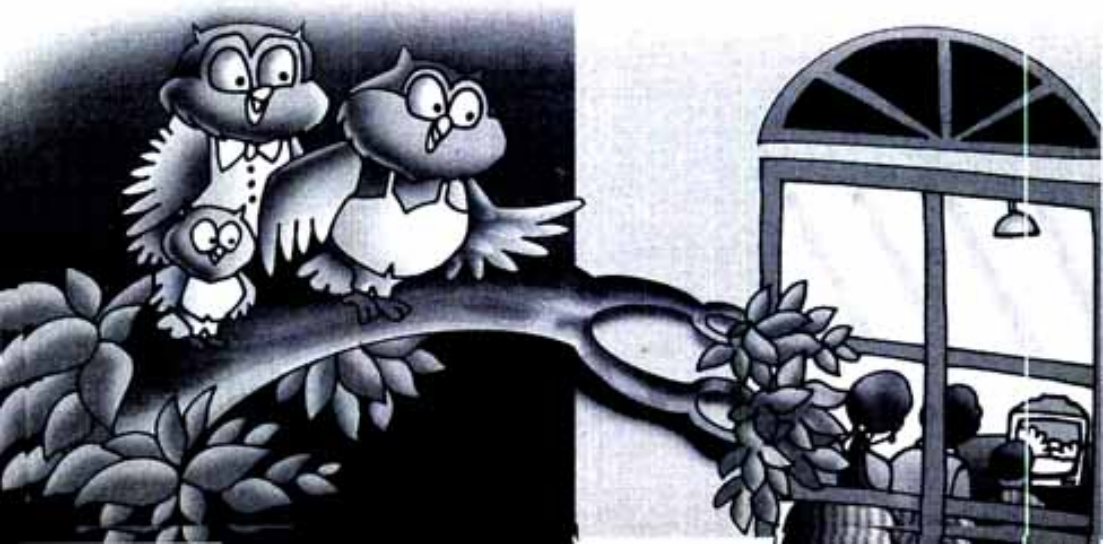
The Hoots glided down to a branch that reached right up to the window, when Tawnia stopped abruptly, "Look!" she whispered. "Right at the edge of the branch! It's Shoots! We've been looking for him everywhere and he has been here all the time!"

The Hoots hopped up quietly and stood beside their little son. Shoots was concentrating on something like a box from which the sounds were coming - bright pictures were flashing and moving about too! The dad, the mom and the three kids were all sitting in front of it and watching the box !

"What is that?" she whispered.

"THAT is called television!" replied Mr. Hoots. "So, THAT'S what's been keeping Shoots awake when he should be asleep! I've heard that human children spend a lot of time watching television and their dads and moms have a tough time with their kids when it comes to watching TV!"

"I think we're going to have a tough time with our kid too!" Tawnia said as she watched Shoots gazing at the screen intently. "NOW I know why Shoots is falling asleep in school. He too, has been watching too much TELEVISION!"



BARD OF AVON

Shakespeare is by far the greatest name in English Literature. He was born in April 1564, in the small town of Stratford on Avon. His mother Mary Arden, came from a noble family. His father John Shakespeare was a prosperous farmer, wool and timber merchant and butcher of the village. William started schooling at the local grammar school where latin was the primary language. Here he studied a little bit of English. When William was only twelve, his father's fortunes began to decline and he had to leave school.

At nineteen, he married an girl named Anne Hathaway who was eight years his senior. In 1585 he left his village to seek his fortune in London.

He was first employed as a horse - boy and call-boy at the Globe Theatre. He rose to be an actor and play - wright. As a play wright he at first patched up the works of others for the use of his company. Gradually he began to produce independent works of his own which at once placed him in the forefront of the dramatists of the day.

As he was an intelligent and observant man, his rise to fame was rapid. He constantly enjoyed court favours.

Shakespeare's dramatic career extended between 1590 and 1612. He has written 37 plays besides two poems : Rape of Lucree and Venus and Adonis and a sequence of 154 sonnets.

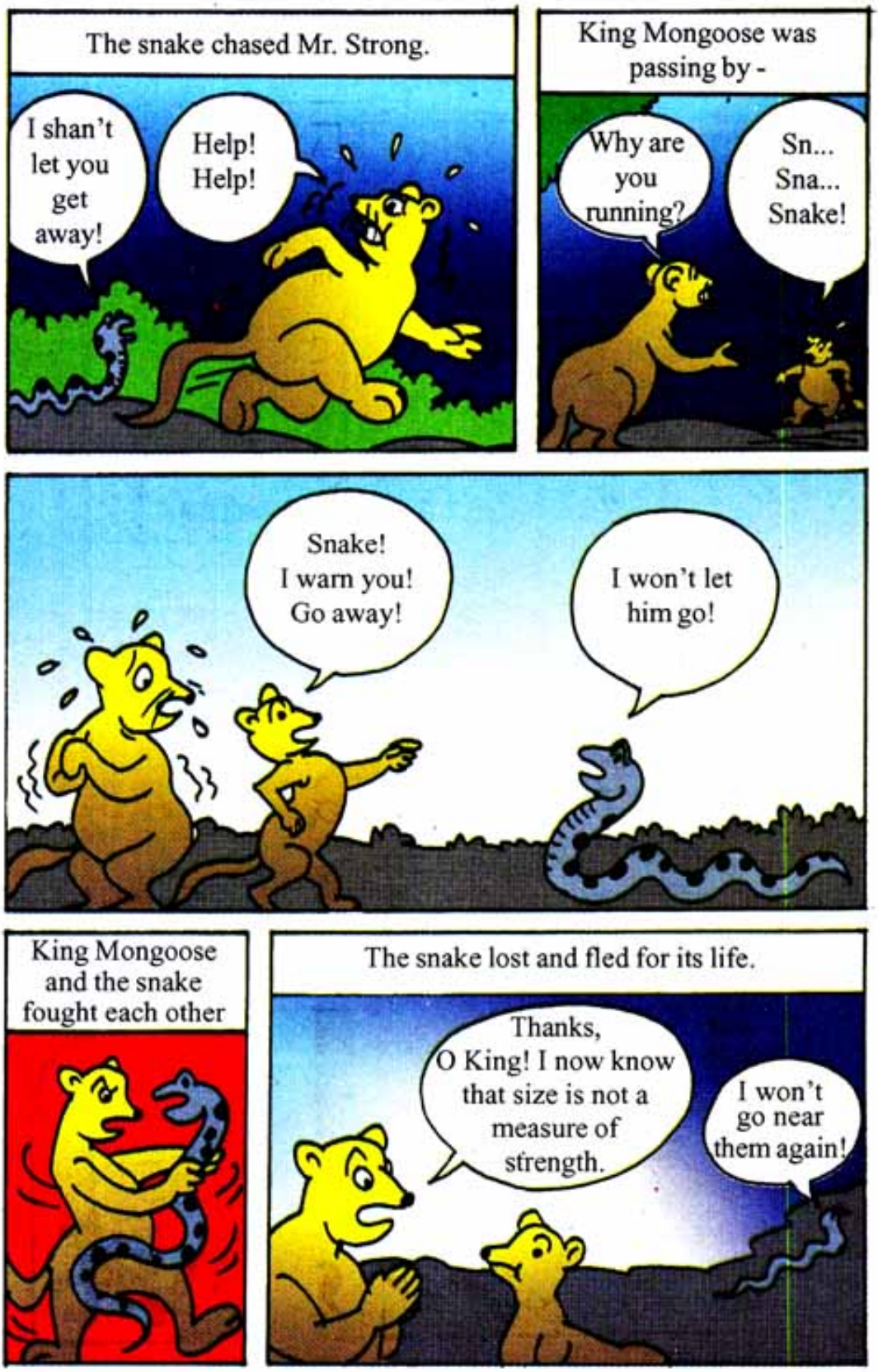
His important works are : Comedy of Errors, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night, The Merchant of Venice, Julius Caesar, Hamlet, Othello, The Tempest and many more...

He had worked hard producing two plays a year. His health was failing him. He died on 23rd April 1616 and was buried in the Stratford church. The Bard of Avon's house 'New Palace'is now a national museum and is sacred to all lovers of English literature.

- P.Srividhya, Std.IX,
Sri Krishnaswamy Matriculation
Hr. Sec. School, Chennai.

MR. STRONG!

Story : Pulendran Pic : Pillai.


The snake chased Mr. Strong.
I shan't let you get away!
Help! Help!
King Mongoose was passing by -
Why are you running?
Sn... Sna... Snake!
Snake! I warn you! Go away!
I won't let him go!
King Mongoose and the snake fought each other
The snake lost and fled for its life.
Thanks, O King! I now know that size is not a measure of strength.
I won't go near them again!

Puzzles

I. MINDBENDER

There are 8 persons. Each person has 8 bags. In each bag, there are 8 dogs. Each dog has 8 puppies. What is the total number of legs?

- Arun Ramachandran, Std.IX, Vani Vidyalaya School, Mumbai

II.DISCOVERERS (CLUES) :

1. Law of floating bodies
A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ S
2. Indication of Infra red rays
H _ _ _ _ _ _ L
3. He invented Bicycle tyres
D _ _ _ _ P
4. The apple fell on his head
N _ _ _ _ N
5. We study his atomic theory
D _ _ _ _ N
6. He invented the bicycle
M _ _ _ _ _ _ _ N
7. He invented the dynamite
N _ _ _ L
8. He invented steam engine
J _ _ _ _ _ _ _ T
9. Yoga is a gift from this great Indian
P _ _ _ _ _ _ _ I
10. He invented the typewriter
T _ _ _ I

- G. Sai Arjun, Std.VII, DAV Boys Senior Sec. School, Chennai

F	Y	U	N	J	C	P	O	L	N	U	D
Y	O	E	O	A	H	C	T	H	M	J	I
O	Q	S	B	X	L	O	Q	A	A	B	N
T	L	P	E	L	Y	L	I	G	K	M	O
T	X	A	L	D	H	Z	I	R	R	A	T
A	Z	T	P	U	E	L	W	M	I	A	W
W	L	A	A	V	R	M	A	V	C	S	E
S	M	N	R	S	S	S	I	G	U	A	N
E	N	J	A	S	C	H	J	H	E	G	M
M	F	A	T	H	H	A	I	O	C	O	J
A	F	L	B	Z	E	I	Q	A	E	R	J
J	D	I	D	A	L	T	O	N	R	Y	A

III. ICY PUZZLE

Everyone loves ice creams. Five children in a queue were having different ice creams at an ice cream stall. There are five servers. Try to solve this 'icy puzzle' with the clues given below.

NOT SO COOL!

the fourth person.

* Meena who was in the middle of the queue was served by Arjun.

* Cup ice cream was served by Sankar and casatta was served by Kurup to the second person.

* Rajesh was the first among the five to get his ice cream.

* Cornetto was eaten by the fourth person.

With the help of these hints, try to find out the five persons in the queue, the ice creams they ate, and the names of the servers who served them.

- Srinidhi Sridhar, Std.VIII, MGC Vidyalaya Tennur, Trichy

* Anjali who was second in line ate casatta, but was not served by Kamal.

* Sowmya was served by Sankar.

* Harish ate Cornetto and Meena ate chocobar.

* Vijay served Kulfi to the first person in line while Kamal served

ANSWERS

I. 18448

II.

F	Y	U	M	J	C	P	O	L	N	U	O
Y	O	E	O	X	H	C	T	H	M	J	I
O	O	S	B	X	Y	O	O	A	A	B	M
T	L	P	E	L	V	Y	I	G	K	M	O
T	X	A	L	D	H	Z	Y	N	R	A	T
A	Z	T	P	U	S	L	W	M	I	A	W
W	L	A	A	V	F	M	A	V	E	S	E
S	M	M	R	S	S	S	I	G	U	X	M
E	N	J	A	S	C	H	J	H	E	G	M
M	F	A	T	H	H	A	I	O	E	O	J
A	F	L	B	Z	E	I	O	A	E	R	J
J	D	I	O	A	L	T	O	N	R	Y	X

III.

1st person, Rajesh was served Kulfi by Vijay
2nd person, Anjali was served Casatta by Kurup
3rd person, Meena was served Chocobar by Arjun
4th person, Harish was served Cornetto by Kamal
5th person, Sowmya was served cup ice cream by Sankar

Win Rs. 100

LAUGH A WHILE CONTEST-4

Requesting all budding authors to write a humourous story or skit about an artist. Remember to restrict your story to 350 words and mark **'LAUGH A WHILE CONTEST - 4'** on the envelope. Rush it to us latest by **20.10.05.**

REMEMBER!

- Strictly for school going children.
- Give your name, school and residential address.
- A declaration that the story / skit is your original creation.
- The prize winning entry will appear in the December 2005 issue of Gokulam.
- Mention 'Laugh a While Contest - 4' on the envelope.
- Editor's decision is final.

Send in you entries to:

Gokulam,

47-NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road,

Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032.

Budding Chef

Celebrate the forthcoming festive season with home made sweets and snacks.

COCOA FUDGE

Ingredients :

Cocoa - 5 tbsp. (powder)
Butter - 3 tbsp.
Milk - ½ cup.
Jeera - 1 tbsp. (optional)

Method : Heat the butter for a few minutes in a pan. Then add the cocoa powder and milk mixture to it. Mix well till it thickens into a paste. Stop heating. Spread evenly in greased plates. Allow it to cool and cut to fancy shapes with sharp knife. Place in a freezer for an hour. Take the pieces out. Add some jeera for taste.

- V.Shyamala, Std.IX,
Cluny School, Neyveli

COCONUT BARFI

Ingredients :

Grated Coconut - 400 gm
Green cardamom - 6 pcs
Sugar - 250 gm
Milk - 100 ml

Procedure :

Boil milk, add coconut, sugar and cardamom and stir on a low flame. Keep stirring till the mixture is thick. Pour the mixture on a greased tray and allow it to cool. When set, cut into pieces and serve.

- S. Kavitha, Std.XII,
SJSSJS, Tirunelveli

GROUNDNUT SNACK

Ingredients :

Ghee - 1 tbsp.
Groundnut roasted - 200 gms
Salt - 1 tsp.
Red chilli powder - 1 tsp.
Amchur Powder - 1 tsp.

Procedure : Heat the kadai and pour the ghee. When the ghee is hot add the groundnut. Fry on low flame. Add the salt, red chilli powder and amchur powder. Mix it well. Your Groundnut snack is ready!

- Sarah Parveen, Std.VII,
Kendriya Vidyalaya,
Hyderabad

THE WORLD IS MINE!

Today, riding a bus, I saw a very beautiful woman.
And wished I were as beautiful when
Suddenly she hobbled down the aisle,
She had one leg but she paused to smile.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine,
I have two legs; the world is mine.

A charming lad sold me some candy,
And as I left, he said to me,
"I thank you, you've been so kind.
You see," he said, "I'm blind."
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine,
I have two eyes; the world is mine.

Later I saw a child watch the others play,
But he did not know what to say.
I said, "Why don't you join them dear?"
He looked wordlessly, I forgot, he couldn't hear.
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine,
I have two ears; the world is mine.

With feet to take me where I'd go,
With eyes to see the sunset's glow,
With ears to hear what I should know,
Oh, God, forgive me when I whine,
I've been blessed indeed, the world is mine.

- Aparna Vaidyanathan, Std.X,
Ryan International School, Noida

SNAKE'S HISS!

In a forest, behind the leaves,
Behind the rocks, boulders
and trees,
By the rivers and plants and
heather,
Do you think you hear a slither?

By the ferns and flowers and all,
The bushes and the hill so tall,
By the brook that goes rippling by,
Is there a person on the sly?

On the forest floor so vast,
Something goes slithering past,
In a forest's hustle and bustle,
Do you hear a mysterious rustle?

Of all interesting things it is,
A silent, slithering snake's hiss.

No one bothers about this creature,
But I love each mysterious feature.

A snake's hiss and slither and
scales,
Have been used in many tales.
Every move this creature makes,
Is seen by a person wide-awake.

And that is me, a curious child,
Who loves everything about
the wild.
A silent, slithering snake's hiss,
While being careful I wouldn't
want to miss.

- Priyanka Kumar, Std. IX,
Ashok Hall Girls' Higher
Secondary School, Kolkata

Story

GREED

Once upon a time in a village lived a poor peasant who worked for the king.

One day when he was passing by a solitary tree, the peasant heard a voice say "would you care to accept jars of gold coins?"

At this the peasant stopped immediately and looked around but saw no one. It was the tree that spoke. The tree repeated the offer. The peasant's curiosity was aroused.

He replied "when merciful providence takes pity on a poor man like me, who am I to refuse such a great offer? Where are the jars?"

"Go home you will find them there", said the tree.

The peasant hurried home and was elated to find the promised jars already there. He opened seven jars and found them all filled to the brim with shining gold coins. But the eighth one, was half empty. This too, he thought, should be as full as the others. So he sold some of his belongings and converted the amount he got into gold coins which he then piled into this jar. Still the vessel remained partially empty and this distressed him.

From then onwards he was consumed by a single passion. How to make enough money to fill his eighth jar with gold. He began to economize on his food, clothing, infact everything in order to save money. His savings went into the jar as gold coins, yet the greedy jar remained partly empty.

The peasant then begged the king to raise his pay. He pleaded, "I do not make enough to keep my family in decent comfort."

The king obliged. But this increase in pay too did not fill up the partially empty jar! The peasant begged and borrowed and converted everything into gold coins but to no avail.

One day the king noticing his sad plight said, "What has happened to you? When you were receiving only half of what you earn today, you were happy and contented. Now in spite of your increased income you go about in rags. Have you by any chance, become the owner of the haunted jars of gold coins?"

At this the peasant fell at his feet

and begged the king not to listen to evil tongues that might have informed his majesty about the matter.

"I have listened to no one" said the king. "But from times immemorial whoever has accepted the offer of the haunted tree has become like you. Go and get rid of your cursed vessels."

Brought to his senses by this advice the peasant at once rushed to the haunted tree and cried, "take back your jars of gold coins. I have had enough of them."

When he returned home the eight jars had vanished taking with them all his painfully collected savings.

Nevertheless the peasant felt greatly relieved and thereafter lived happily.

- N. Ramprasath, Std.X, BEL High School, Bangalore

Hello, Doctor

HOW ANTIBIOTICS

• **R. Nagarathinam, Coimbatore**

? What are antibiotics?

! Antibiotics are drugs which kill harmful bacteria. They are obtained from bacteria and fungi. They act on microorganisms in three ways. 1. They prevent the formation of cell walls of bacteria. 2. They prevent the growth and multiplication of the cell wall. 3. They disrupt the production of proteins and nucleic acids which are essential for the growth of the cells of bacteria. Thus they cure diseases caused by bacteria.

There are different types of antibiotics. Each one is selective in its action. This means that a given antibiotic drug works only on certain types of harmful bacteria and leaves the 'good' bacteria in our body untouched. They do not normally damage the cells of our body. They are not effective against viruses and protozoas. Many antibiotics can have side effects ranging from indigestion to deafness. Never take antibiotics without consulting a doctor. Penicillin, ampicillin, ci-profloxacin and cloxacillin are some of the antibiotics used nowadays.

• **Reena Shah, New Delhi**

? I am 16 years old. I have been suffering from asthma for the past six years. I am allergic to dust. I have been taking a number of medicines but to no avail. Please advise.

! Nowadays drugs are given less importance in the treatment of bronchial asthma. Allergy control, diet management and breathing exercises take precedence. You can learn these modalities from allergy prevention clinics.

FIGHT BACTERIA!

• G.Rajam, Nagarkoil

? Which shampoo is the best for our hair? How often should we use shampoo?

! A good shampoo cleans effectively, rinses out easily and does not irritate the eyes or scalp. You should select a shampoo that is specially formulated for your type of hair i.e., normal hair, dry hair or oily hair. A shampoo that lathers well or has an exotic perfume need not be a superior cleanser. Shampoo is to be used when hair has lost its natural lustre or just feels dirty. The frequency is likely to differ with the type of hair, occupation, seasons etc. In summer, perspiration can attract more dirt and dust to hair. Greasy hair attracts dirt faster than dry hair and so needs more frequent washing. School children who run and play and make their hair sweaty and smelly need frequent shampooing.

• Ajay Sharma, Goa

? I suffer from frequent attacks of sore throat and tonsillitis. I like cold drinks and ice creams. Do they cause throat problems?

! Your throat should be examined by an ENT surgeon at the time of attack to confirm whether it is really tonsillitis. Sometimes vitamin deficiency may cause frequent throat problems. In a tonsillitis attack, fever is present and the tonsils appear inflamed. Taking antibiotics promptly will cure initial stages of attack. If the attacks are frequent, then the tonsils should be removed surgically. Cold drinks and ice cream induce the growth of bacteria which cause tonsillitis. It is better to avoid them to prevent recurrent attacks of sore throat.

GIFTS & GREETINGS!

Dussehra and Diwali are round the corner. Create your own greeting cards and gifts.

GREETING CARD

Items required

Mount paper *(A black sheet layered on another white cardboard sheet - Generally available in all stationery shops.)*

Card board sheet *(of required size)*, Razor blade , Glue, Pencil

Method : Draw any picture on the mount paper with a pencil. Now re-draw the picture in double lines alongside the same pencil lines, with a razor blade, so that the entire design is drawn in double lines (with required thickness). Now slowly and carefully scale out the area in between the two lines. You will get an encarved design on black background. Paste it on a card board sheet and put down your message. Your greeting card is ready now.

- P. SaiDeepak, Std.VII,
Sainik School, Korukonda

PEN STAND WITH BANGLE HOLDER

Materials Required :

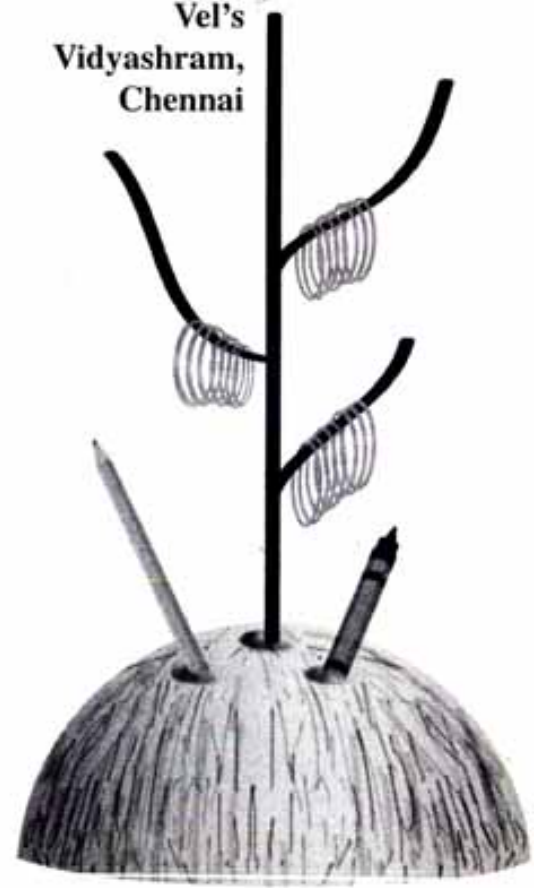
A small dried stem (without any leaf)

Half a coconut shell.

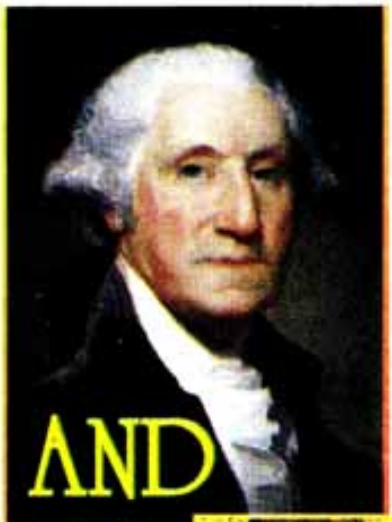
Method :

Pierce two or three holes in the coconut shell. Fix the stem in one hole. Hang some bangles in the stem and fix the pens on the other holes. Your pen stand with bangle holder is ready.

- J. Ranjani, Std.VIII,
Vel's Vidyashram,
Chennai



ARM AND A LEG!



In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Sometimes George Washington's paintings showed him behind the desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and arms. Prices charged by the painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but how many 'limbs' were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs', therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, "Okay, but it will cost you an arm and a leg!"

- M. Yasaswini,
Std.VII, PSBBSS School,
Chennai

There are many secret games hidden in the marauder's map of www.harrypotter.com. These are the locations of the portkey which takes one to the games. Have fun, playing Potter games!

At Hogwarts, near the 'Defence against Arts' pit is hidden a game. Near 'Divination' in the marauder's map to the left of Hogwarts and off the grounds, there is a symbol, 'Womping Willow' in the map. Just above the 'Sorting Hat' there is a wedge in the castle grounds.

www.harrypotter.warnerbros.com

- Deepak Rajendran,
Std.X, Jawahar Vidyalaya,
Chennai.

THE PUPIL WHO EXCELLED!

During their childhood the Pandavas and the Kauravas were sent to Dronacharya's ashram for formal education.

One day Drona asked the students to study what they had been taught the previous day as he was leaving for the neighbouring state that day. The next day he decided to question them.

All the princes except Yudishtira answered with zeal. Drona who noticed this asked Yudishtira if he had studied or not. No reply came. So Drona asked the others if Yudishtira had studied or not. They replied that the Pandava prince was the one who had seriously studied.

He then asked, "O Pandava prince! Tell me how much have you studied."

Yudishtira answered, "Guru, I have studied half a line."

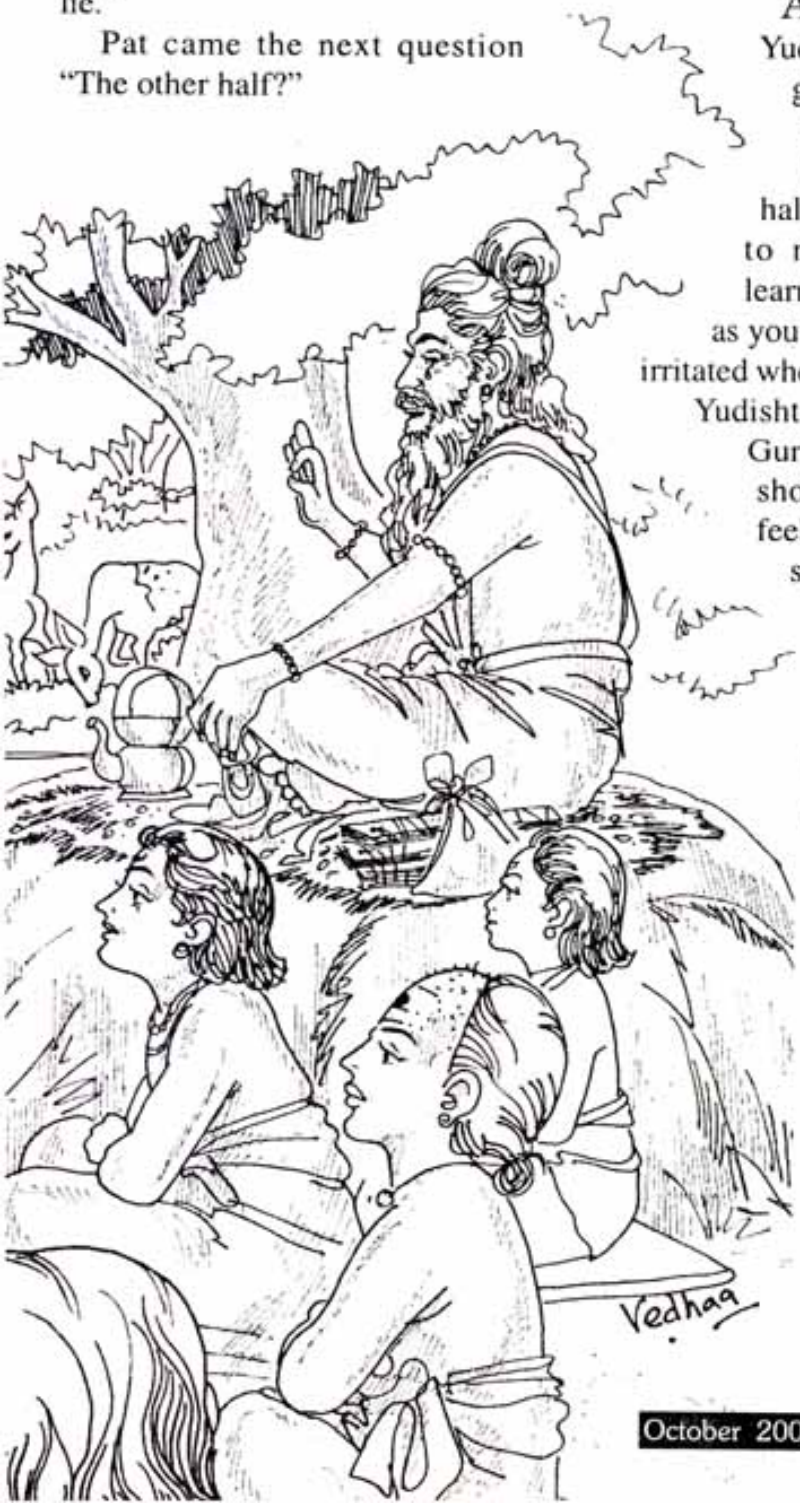
Dronacharya was outraged. "Half a line in one whole day!"

He continued angrily. "Which half a line?"

The prince replied. "Do not ever lie."

Pat came the next question "The other half?"

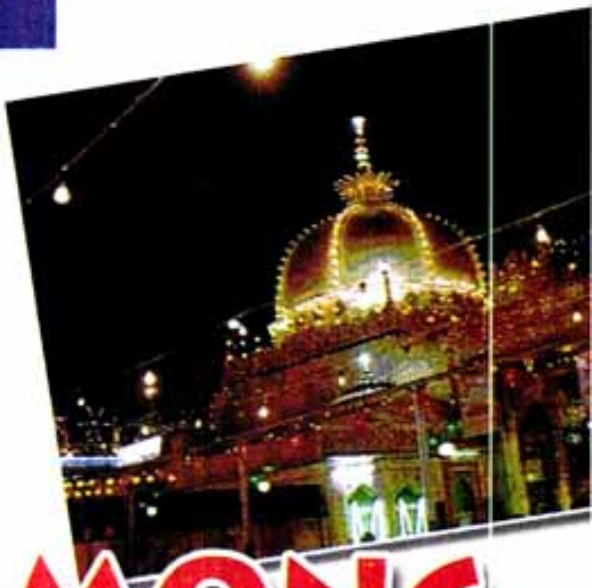
He got the answer "Do not get angry."



At this reply from Yudishtra, Drona's anger vanished. "O prince! You said you have studied only half a line. But it seems to me that you have learnt the other half too as you did not get angry or irritated when I shouted at you." Yudishtra then replied. "O Guru, though I did not show my anger, I did feel irritated when you scolded me. Therefore the second half is yet to be grasped by me."

On hearing this reply Drona's eyes moistened with tears. Tears of joy of a teacher who realized that a disciple had excelled him. He said, "You have indeed mastered half a line!"

- R.Ashwin,
Std.X,
Chinmaya
Vidyalaya,
Chennai



GEM AMONG THE SUFIS!

Khwaja Muinuddin Chisti was born in a well respected family, in Seistan in East Persia. His parents died when Khwaja Sahib was just sixteen years old. He had to earn his livelihood from the orchard he had inherited.

His search for a Pir (Spiritual Guide) brought him to the feet of Hazrat Khwaja Usman Harooni who was the greatest scholar of that period. He served him devotedly for years.

As the great Khwaja Sahib became accomplished in every respect, the divine tutor honoured him with the robe and took him to Mecca and performed the Haj. Thereon they went to Medina and stayed there for some time, to receive blessings from the Prophet.

Holy Prophet Muhammad asked him to go to India and show the people the Path of Truth. He reached Ajmer in India and settled down on a hill close to Ana Sagar lake later known as the Chillan Khwaja Sahib. Soon word spread about the divine powers of the Khwaja and people of all faiths came to him. He treated them with kindness and compassion. Inspired by his simple yet divine teachings many people including Rajput King Pritviraj Chauhan became his disciples. Khwaja Muinuddin concentrated on spreading the ethical and spiritual values of Islam.

In the famous battle of Tarain in 1192 A.D. Shahabuddin Ghori defeated Prthviraj Chauhan. However the victorious Shahabuddin Ghori on hearing of of Khwaja Sahib at Ajmer, personally visited him and sought his grace.

The liberal Chishtia order of Sufis in India was founded by Khwaja Sahib who preached the Qur'anic philosophy of unity of religions. He inspired millions to be his followers, and served the

masses of the Indian sub-continent.

Khwaja Sahib continued his noble mission, showing the Path of Truth to the people.

Some sacred sayings of Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti :

1. Of all the worship that pleases Almighty Allah, the most is the granting of relief to the humble and the oppressed.

2. Performance of charity is the key to enrichment of the soul.

3. The true friend of Allah is one who has these three qualities:

a. A friend of God must have affection like the sun. When the sun rises, it is beneficial to all. All persons derive heat and light from it irrespective of whether they are Muslim, Christian, Hindu or Sikh.

b. A friend of God must be generous like a lake or a river. We all get water from the river or lake to quench our thirst. No discrimination is made whether we are good or bad or whether we are a relation or a stranger.

c. A friend of God is one who has the quality of hospitality like the earth. We are raised and cradled in its lap; even so it is always spread below our feet.

Having fulfilled his mission complying with the command given to him by the Holy Prophet, his noble soul left the mortal body at the age of 97.His tomb was built at the very place in Ajmer , from where he had blessed countless devotees throughout his stay in India.Today his tomb popularly known as The **Dargah Sharif** (holy tomb) is visited by people of all walks of life and all faiths, from all over the world.Flowers of devotion (chaddars) are offered by all, irrespective of man-made barriers of caste, creed, religion and race. The rich and the poor stand side by side to pay homage and respect to this divine soul.

Rajshree Vasudevan,
Chennai

News Analysis

Senior leader Madan Lal Khurana was expelled from the B.J.P. after his remarks against Advani. Vajpayee intervened and Khurana was readmitted into the party, "since he had apologised". "I did not apologise" shot back Khurana. "I only expressed regret!"

England won the series in their Test matches against Australia and regained the Ashes after sixteen years. Already there is a demand in Australia for replacing Richard Ponting with Shane Warne.

* Once more!

Following increase in international prices of crude, the cost of petrol and diesel went up again by Rs.3 and Rs.2 respectively. Cooking gas and kerosene have been spared. The opposition says that the price rise could have been avoided by reducing the several taxes on petroleum products levied by both the centre and states.

Elections are slated for October and November in Bihar. Frantic efforts are being taken to form alliances. The CPI has aligned with Paswan's Lok Jan Sakthi Party; the Janata Dal (U) with the B.J.P. and the Congress with Lalu's R.J.D. Let us hope that this time atleast the electorate will give a clear majority to one or other of the groups.

Tamil film actor Vijaykanth has launched a new party and has named it "Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK)". Perhaps Tamilnadu will find a place in the Guinness Book of Records for the maximum number of parties in a state!

Following his complimentary remarks on Jinnah, Advani had to resign from his position as Chief of B.J.P. Later he withdrew his resignation when Vajpayee patched up things for him. But pressure within the party and from the Sangh Parivar grew to such an extent that he had to announce his resignation once again! He will be quiting in December according to his latest statement!

* Cold war

COLD WAR IN CRICKET!

Not many would have been shocked when Ganguly announced that he was asked to step down from his position as captain of the Indian Cricket team. Coach Greg Chappell says that he and Sourav had discussions about the balance of the team. Both will not say anything more but we know that the cold war has begun!

Letter Box

SPECIAL REQUESTS!

I love all articles in Gokulam especially Snippets and Sports Talk. I gain a lot of knowledge. I would be delighted if you could publish 'Dubai Special'.

- V. Pooja, Dubai

Please give hot news about HP world and restart the Child Achievers column. You could also start a new column - "Improve your Mathematics" Awaiting the next issue.

- Kaustubha S. Gour, Gulbarga

Gokulam is a super tonic for children. Apart from giving us interesting stories and information it encourages us to participate in various contests and write articles. That is why it is our favourite magazine.

- Kunal Bharucha, Mumbai

Gokulam posters are fantastic. We can even frame them. The mythology stories and puzzles are wonderful. Please make Gokulam a fortnightly.

- E. Santosh Vamsi, Vizag

When I read Gokulam, I'm totally engrossed in it. Even if there were to be a bomb blast nearby I would be unaware of it. Awaiting Mysore Special.

- Anup Bharadwaj, Mysore

The Book Nook Column is very interesting. Please review books by Indian authors too. Looking forward to Chapter 5 of the Case of the Missing Children.

- Kanchan, Ghaziabad

We, Gokulam readers, have many common hobbies like stamp collection, numismatics etc. We hope you will start a new column for hobbies.

- George Joseph, Ahmedabad

TOMO SAAN! POLO SAAN! RELAX! ENJOY!
OH! THE SETTING! THE FANTASTIC TEA BOWL!
THESE BOWLS HAVE BEEN IN MY FAMILY FOR AGES! PRICELESS!
TOMO IN JAPAN
ERR... WE'RE IN A HURRY. WE HAVE TO BE AT THE TOKYO AIRPORT AT...
POLO SAAN! NO HURRY! TEA CEREMONIES TO BE ENJOYED FOR 2-3 HOURS.
SUDDENLY~
!
OH! MY BOWL!
SO SORRY! WE'LL TRY TO REPLACE IT... COME POLO!
BACK FROM A CURIO SHOP AFTER A TWO HOUR SEARCH~
HERE, WE WERE ABLE TO FIND A REPLACEMENT. BUT WE CAN'T STAY.
YOU MUST RELAX!

The tea ceremony in Japan is very traditional. The host wears a kimono. The guests wait at a garden shelter until summoned. They then wash their hands and mouth at a small stone basin of water outside the tea house, remove their shoes and then enter the 'tokonoma' where they admire scrolls and other decorations. Tea houses are usually small and covered by strawmats. Guests may be served 'Kaiseki' (a simple meal) and sake (rice wine). Later each utensil for making tea is cleaned in the presence of the guest and precise amounts of ingredients are used to prepare tea. Conversation is kept to a minimum. Guests relax and enjoy the sights, sounds (of water and fire) and smell (of incense and tea).

The chief guest usually turns the bowl and takes a few sips before wiping the rim and passing it on to the next guest who does the same. The ceremony lasts several hours.

The Japanese Bullet Trains or Shinkansens are the fastest trains in the world. Plying between important cities they run at speeds exceeding 250-300 kmph. Even in 1964 when the service commenced their speed was 210 kmph.

VIEWS ON GANDHIAN

Today's world is tech savvy but ignorant about simple social values like truth and non violence. These values taught by Gandhiji are more relevant today when there is death and destruction all over the world. While violence begets violence, the Mahatma's path led us to peace and freedom. It was he who gave as the wings of freedom to express ourselves even against Gandhian principles!

- Arvind Vasudevan, Std.VIII, PSBB, Chennai

I strongly feel that Gandhiji is no longer relevant in today's context. Contrary to his ideas, violence is the order of the day. Some of the surviving freedom fighters feel that Gandhiji was not the person who drove away the British but people like Bhagat Singh, Bose and Azad who were extremists. It was the British who gave Gandhiji the credit, just to uphold the dignity of their country. Non-violence and his other ideals are good but were not and are not relevant any more.

- M. Sneha, Std.IX, St. Anne's Girls High School, Bangalore

Gandhiji, the greatest revolutionary the world has seen, dreamt of India without poverty, illiteracy, corruption etc. He said, "Politics without principles; wealth without work and education without character are social sins." He practised what he preached. If he could oust the British from our soil by adhering to these values, it should be possible to change the face of the world too by removing terrorism and other evils. What is lacking is the will power to adhere to his principles.

- P.Saideepak, Std.VIII, Sainik School, Korukonda.

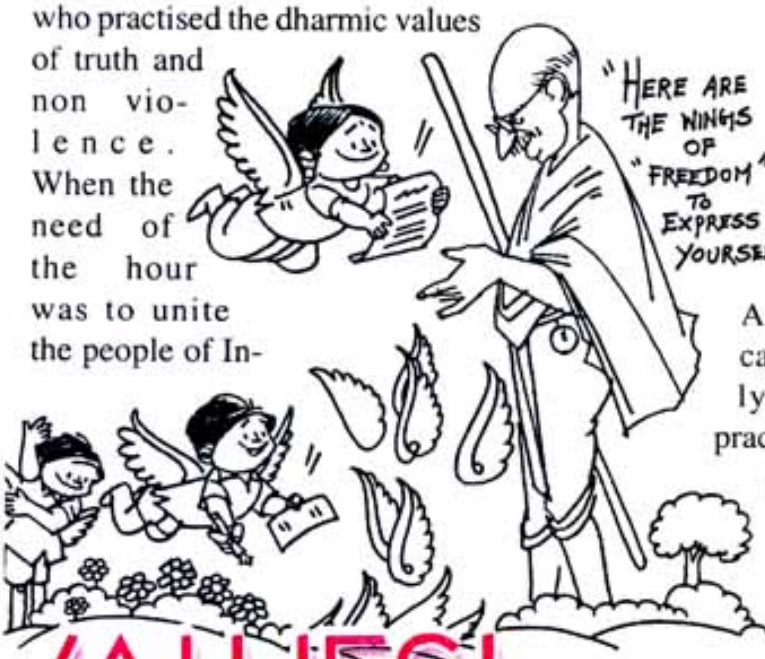
India might have got independence because of Gandhiji's tireless efforts but in today's context, I feel the Mahatma is no longer relevant. Violence and terrorism have become worldwide phenomena. Bomb blasts, murders, kidnappings, communal riots etc. are rampant in India and elsewhere. These activities should be nipped in the bud. The governments must take strong measures and deal with them with a firm hand. Gandhiji's principle of non

violence will not work today.

- M. Deepika Priyadarshini, Std.XII, Tagore International School, New Delhi

Gandhiji is indeed a Mahatma who practised the dharmic values of truth and non violence. When the need of the hour was to unite the people of India for the cause of independence, Gandhiji showed us the path. These values do not change with time and are relevant even today. 'Gun for Gun' seems to be the slogan, be it Kashmir or Iraq. Friends, let us pledge on Gandhi Jayanthi that we will change this attitude.

- V. Maanasa, Primary 3, Geyland Methodist Primary School, Singapore



VALUES!

On October 2nd the nation will celebrate another Gandhi Jayanthi. Our leaders will pay lip service to the Mahatma. Although Gandhiji came from a rich family he preached and practised 'simple living' and 'high thinking'. Present day leaders are power hungry and amass wealth. So much so, Gandhiji seems to be forgotten all through the year. Even his statues are uncared for and unkempt except on his birthday. As for following his values, less said the better.

- Lalitha Swaminathan, Std.IX, National High School of Girls, Kolkatta.

QUESTION FOR THE MONTH

The Central Government has asked the states to decide whether to scrap the Std. X Boards. Should there be a public exam at the end of Std.X?

Send us your views by 10.10.2005. Each published entry will receive a prize of Rs.25/-. Remember to include details of your age, class, school and residential address. Those of you who are non - residents of India should send us a local (Indian) address too.

MARBLE MARVEL!

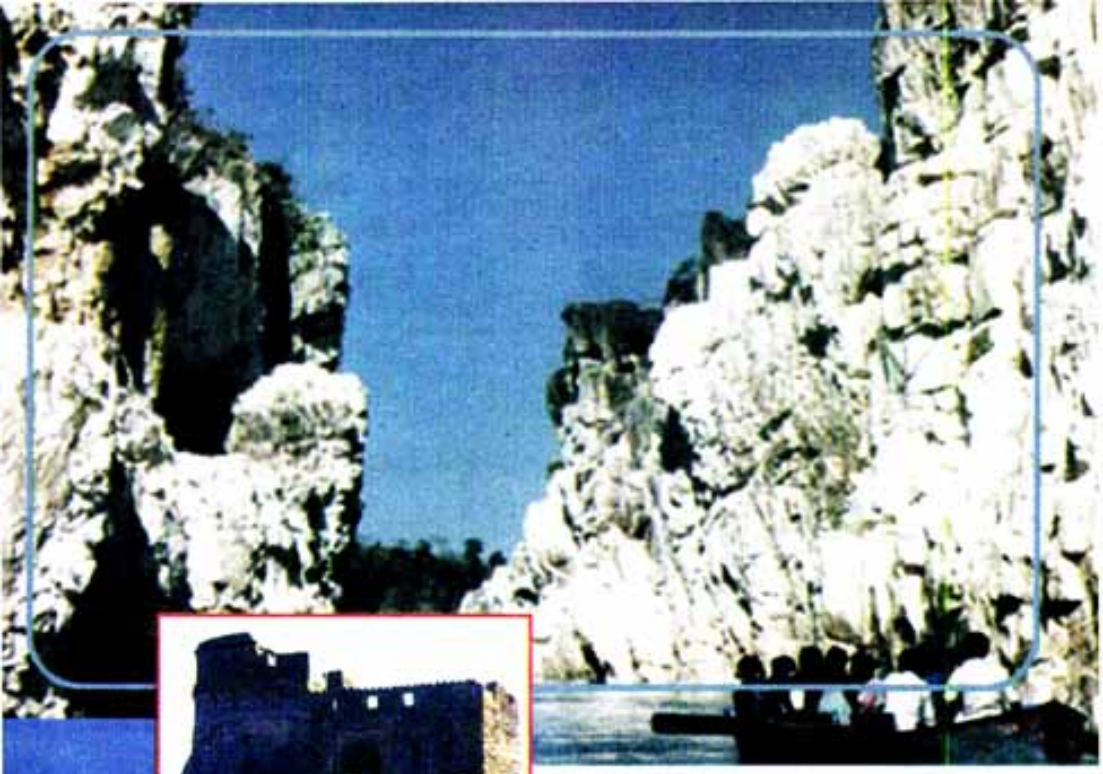
During the winter vacation last year, we went to various places in Madhya Pradesh. Some of them were Bhopal, Gwalior, Panchmarhi, Jabalpur.

But the place I really enjoyed was Jabalpur. We stayed there only for 2 - 3 hours, but still I found Jabalpur an enchanting place to visit.

Do you know that Jabalpur is famous for its Marble Rocks? This is a place where on both sides there are marble rocks and in between them flows the gorgeous river, Narmada. We went boating and admired the scenery.

A marble rock looked as if it was wrapped, in golden foil due to the sun's reflection. On top of a marble rock we saw a rock carved in the shape of a Maruti car! But actually it wasn't carved, it was a natural formation! On a small marble rock there was a small 'shivalingam'. On another marble rock, there was a tree which looked as though it was dancing.

In another spot, there was a waterfall - Dhuandar falls - in which we couldn't bathe due to its great force. Water gushes down with



such great force that it creates a lot of 'dhuan'.

The word dhuan in Hindi means 'water mist'. That's why its name is Dhuandar Falls. Surrounding the falls, there is a fence. A little water is channelised towards the fence for the public to wash their feet.

Rani Durgavati Museum in Jabalpur has a large collection of artifacts and photos related to Mahatma Gandhi.

Madan Mahal, a Gond fortress located on a rocky hill provides a panoramic view of the city.

Near Jabalpur is the Kanha wildlife sanctuary. It is famous for Project Tiger.

I hope all of you would visit Jabalpur, the Marble city and Kanha and enjoy them as much as I did!

- Ramya Sivanesan, Std.VI, Shri Ram School, Gurgaon.

Lovable Teachers

Three years back, in the month of May, my father announced that we would have to shift from Tuticorin to Bangalore. I was worried that I would have to learn a new language 'Kannada'.

However, my father said that I should be enthusiastic about learning a new language. We finally came to Bangalore and I was admitted in an English medium school (However one subject was Kannada).

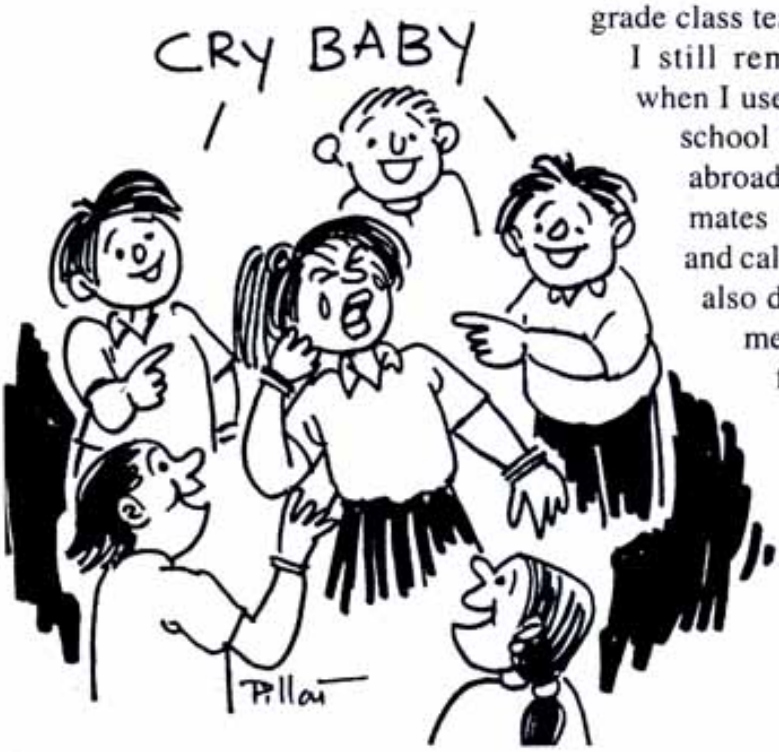
On my first day, I informed my class teacher about the problem. She, then, took me to the Kannada teacher, Jesantha Mary. Being a kind teacher, she said that she would help me until the first exam, by which time I had to pick up. She coached me painstakingly. What a wonder! From the first test till today, I have scored the highest marks in Kannada. Teachers appreciate even my Kannada handwriting. Now, I have changed my school. Still, I have great respect for this selfless teacher, who taught me with so much of care.

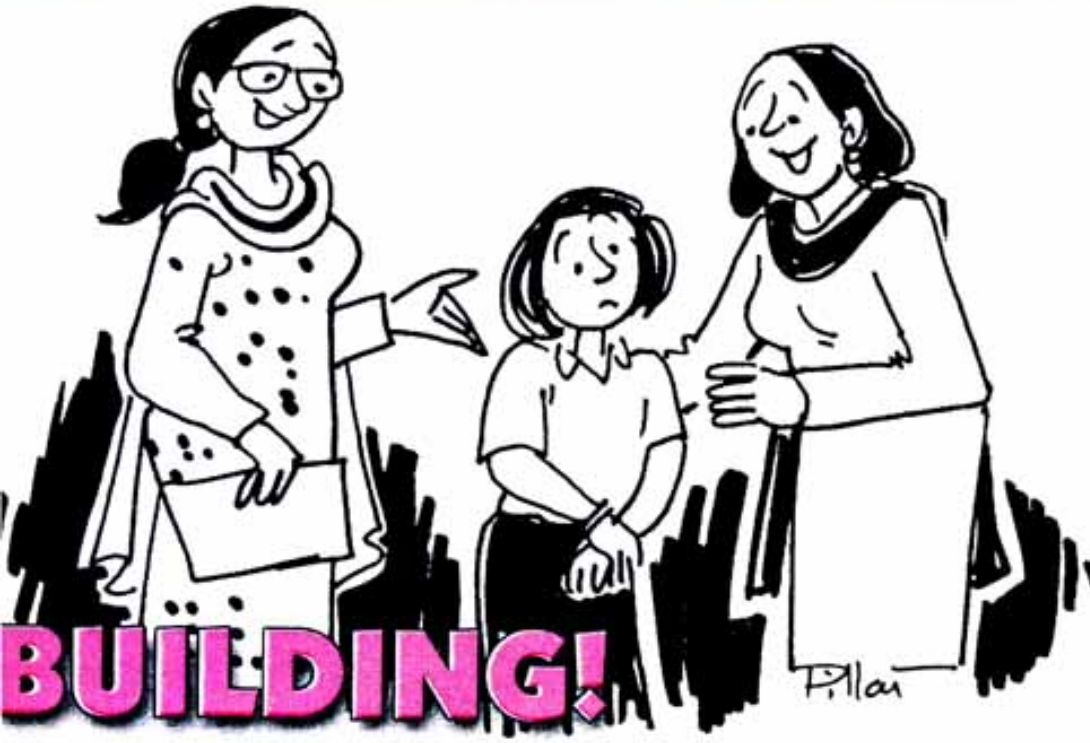
- M. Sneha, Std.IX,
St. Anne's Girls' High School,
Bangalore

CONFIDENCE

As I look down memory lane, I realise that the teacher who inspired me the most is my second grade class teacher.

I still remember those days when I used to cry everyday at school as my father worked abroad. Hence all my classmates used to mock at me and call me a 'cry baby' and also did not socialise with me, which added to my frustration. During such a trying time, Gowri Ma'am was the one who consoled me and encouraged me to take part in the





school culturals (competitions). Consequently, I took part in the oratorical contest and surprisingly won the first place which helped our class win the overall cup. My classmates, who had till then ridiculed me gave me a hero's welcome after the school celebrations concluded.

This incident was the one that changed my life, as it helped me win friends. All this happened because of Gowri Ma'am who tapped my potential by encouraging me and giving me an opportunity. Today, though I have shifted many schools and been under many teachers, Gowri Ma'am will always be etched in my memory as a lovable teacher.

- V. Divya, Std.XI, P.S. Senior Secondary School, Chennai

CALLING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

We invite contributions to the Lovable Teachers, Salient Saints, and Netbits columns. Parents can participate too. Please send in your contributions to the Editor, Gokulam, Kalki Buildings, 47NP, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Ekkaduthangal, Chennai - 600 032. See page 18 for more details.

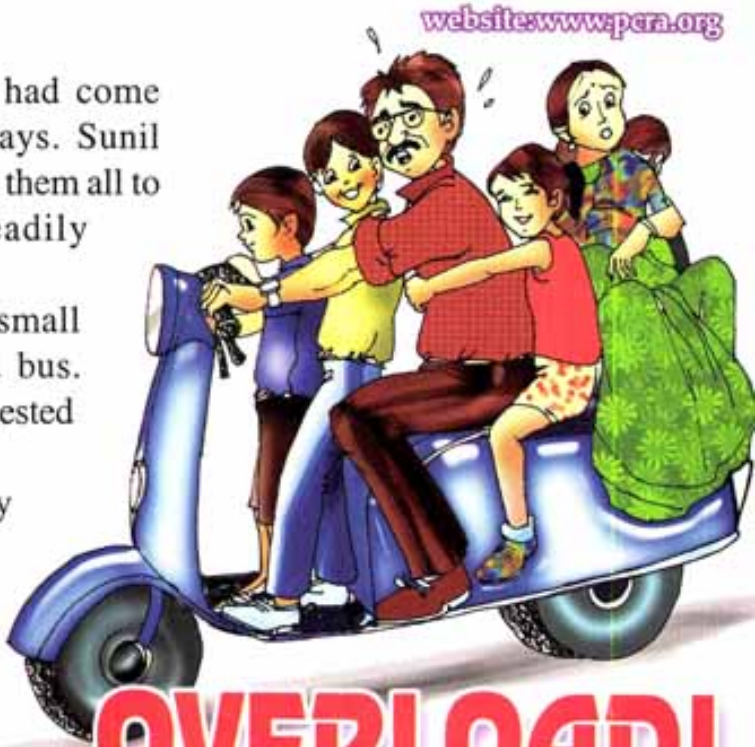
BUTTERFLY! BUTTERFLY!

Story : **Srira Ravivarman** Pic : **Sekar**

Chintu Mom Butterflies Kitty Matty Home Idea Honey Flowering Plants

loved ! "I want to rear ," he told his . "Impossible", said . asked why he was so sad. told about his love for .

" , I can't help you in this matter but why don't you ask my friend ?" said . rushed to and told about his wish. "I can't help you. Meet my friend " said . was busy collecting nectar at a park. told about his problem. had no solution either. reached home sad and weary. Just then, he had an . 'If I were to grow many at would throng to them for nectar!' said to himself. 's wish would be fulfilled.



OVERLOAD!

Geetha and Raja had come down for their holidays. Sunil asked his father to take them all to the circus. Dad readily agreed.

"We can't take a small baby in the crowded bus. Let's hire an auto" suggested Sunil's mom.

"Why waste money on an auto? We'll 'adjust' a little bit and travel on the scooter," said his father.

While Sunil and Raja stood in front, Geetha sat behind Sunil's dad and his mom, with a baby on her lap, sat behind Geetha!

Since the vehicle was overloaded, dad drove slowly. He screamed a warning when they were approaching a speed breaker.

When they were nearing the main road, the traffic policeman stopped them and asked, "Where are you going?"

"To the circus" said Sunil's father.

"Whatever for? You seem to be a part of the circus on the road! Two wheelers are not built to carry this kind of load. Not only are you risking your lives, you are a hazard to others too. We shouldn't go looking for accidents!" advised the policeman. Sunil's dad understood.

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